

HANCOCK COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

3 3123 00085 0348

JOURNAL OF THE FRIGATE

"Le Marin"

(September 5th, 1698 - July 2nd, 1699)



FOR REFERENCE ONLY
NOT TO BE TAKEN
FROM THE LIBRARY

Sieur d'Iberville's SHIP - *Marin* - 1699 - Biloxi Bay

275th ANNIVERSARY
Biloxi Bay Colony

OCEAN SPRINGS - BILOXI - NORTH BILOXI

A Chapter
From
Memoirs & Documents
by
Pierre Margry

Translated by: Henri de Ville Du Sinclair

REFERENCE ONLY

HANCOCK COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
HDQTRS: CITY-COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
312 HIGHWAY 90
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39520-3595

INTRODUCTION

Through the great wilderness and across the high seas they came, by the hundreds and by the thousands, the exiled, the adventurer, the soldier, young and old; they came to claim their right to freedom and soldiers, miners and timbermen, men of iron and women just as strong, to anchor a population in a rugged but beautiful land of many wonders: America.

Spaniards carved legends into the soils of this vast continent's southlands, in search of gold while spreading the word of God among the native Americans here before them. Others wanted to share in the new land as a means to a peaceful way of existence and an opportunity for religious liberties; others wanted the adventure of opening a hidden valley, ascending a roaring river for furs, or following ancient trails through mountains, to come and erect, to cultivate and have offspring: to build America.

From tiny outposts colonies grew into states, then nations, rapidly devouring any obstacle, spanning the continent to become the most powerful nation of people the world has ever known.

It is from these people that we have our heritage. It is to them we pay homage on this 275th anniversary of the Biloxi Bay Colony. Not only to the French Canadians and Germans who made the colony possible; but to the many emigrants that flooded the territory from the northeast; they came by wagon and on foot, horseback and boat, cutting deeply into the rich earth, leaving treads that would never be erased. The converging different tongues and cultures established a new tradition in the coastal plains of what later became the Great State of Mississippi in the Old Southwest. Then with the opening of the West, as we know it today, many of their offspring said goodbye to their elders and took up the reins of the wagon, saddled their horses, and set forth to pioneer another frontier, not a new but an ever expanding frontier that had never ceased to exist until the stars and stripes saluted the shores of the Pacific.

If you were able to revisit the past, to a day in the year 1699, February 10 to be exact, at sunrise you may see, on the far horizon to the south, white sails in full, atop strange new vessels. You are observing the coming of the French Cana-

dians; a small squadron of five vessels, flying a royal navy blue banner with a field of golden fleur-de-lys.

The reverberations of laughter, prayer, and singing may be heard from the shores of the islands, from the distant harbor to the south. Only the three large vessels would be seen at first, but then two smaller boats, bobbing in the cold north-wind appear. The three-and-a-half month journey across the Atlantic in the dead of winter has been trying and is just about to reach the grand finale - The landing on Mississippi shores. For now they have reached their destiny, in a paradise, a virgin land that has given itself to them and their children, and to those afterwards, to our grandfathers and grandmothers, and to us.

Two hundred and seventy five years ago the Calumet was exchanged in friendship. Over the pipe of peace two people were bound together, red and white, to share the best that each could offer. A land was claimed; a banner was planted; a fort was built. In May, 1699 a final salute was sounded from cannon and the first farewell brought cheers to a departing fleet. But it was not for long. Within two dozen years thousands came to our shores, some to stay, some to leave for the mighty river valley to the west, and some to die while waiting for dreams to come true. But the dream became a reality for most. With hard work, brawn and brain, courage and perseverance, the men, women and children put their backs to the task of building our heritage.

Carpenters and trappers, soldiers and marines, vagabonds and priests, women and children: a colony was born. The coast was theirs, it is ours.

From that time on the Mississippi Gulf Coast has grown, as has the nation. From the small settlements, that sprang up along the Bay, towns grew forth. From the small colony on the Bay the vast wilderness that encompassed the central third of a continent became a tamed giant, giving of itself its resources in countless wealth.

From Canada, via Brest, France, the first two hundred colonists arrived on our coast anchoring at L'Ile aux Vaisseaux

(to be known later as Ship Island) on February 10, 1699. Three days later the first party set foot on the Mississippi mainland, somewhere near our present day Beauvoir Shrine, then began their search for a homeland.

After six weeks of exploring the Mississippi River for a suitable place, and finding nothing, the coast itself was searched. On the seventh of April a party entered the Biloxi Bay, named in honor of the Indians who were found there, and satisfied with what they saw - a small natural channel and a gentle bluff - they selected their site. By the sixth of May the first fort of Louisiana was sufficiently completed to allow tenants. Overlooking Biloxi Bay, on a bluff, Fort Maurepas became the first French colonial headquarters south of Montreal.

An alliance with Spain against England forced a move from Fort Maurepas to Mobile Bay in 1702. Some Canadians remained to give the Bay Colony a permanence. In 1719 they completed their return, but after a year of sickness and famine, complemented by a fort fire, the headquarters and colony were moved to the peninsula across the bay to the west - Fort Louis, at Nouveau Biloxi, or Biloxi as we know it today. Fort Maurepas, in present day Ocean Springs, was left for ruin.

Fort Louis was planned and the ground was cleared, permanent and temporary houses and stores were erected. The fort was to be built of brick and extend a quarter of a mile in each direction, facing the shore; but, the four sided structure was abandoned before the first brick arrived. The channel to the Mississippi had been opened and large ships were able to ascend as far as an island upstream a hundred miles. By 1722 the headquarters with most of the colonists was moving to that island which had become a settlement, built from the plans of Fort Louis, to be known today as New Orleans. It was because of its proximity to Biloxi that it had been chosen.

Only a handful of families remained on the peninsula, and to the north and east on the shores of the Bay, Canadians and Germans began their design of our cities. Land concessions that had been purchased by wealthy Europeans during the John Law Scheme (a venture to bail France out of its bankruptcy) had created small villages along the coast, but by 1726 only a few remained. The building of the coast began.

In these few short paragraphs it is not possible to tell of the valor and tribulations given by our forefathers in the settlement of the coast, and the part played by them in the settling of the nation.

As we drive along the scenic routes of our coast, state and country, today we see magnificence and splendor. What we often do not see is the beginning of that small trail of long ago that led us to this highway of the Space Age. We do not see that small grass hut on the shore, or on the bluff that was our first step in the pathway of progress. We do not see those five vessels on the horizon that brought forth from their bowels a nation.

Probably the most important aspect of our heritage is the coming of the French Canadians to Biloxi Bay in 1699. It was an ordeal that is equal to that of the Plymouth founders, or of the Jamestown settlers. The pioneer spirit, failures and successes were parallel, and their voyages similar. It is the Trans-Atlantic voyage that we are particularly interested in at this time, the 275th Biloxi Bay Colony Anniversary.

Rather than attempt the story of their coming in analysis, we have chosen a log recorded by one unknown yeoman aboard d'Iberville's command vessel, *Le Marin*. The ship's log which has been preserved in the Marine Archives, Paris, France has been translated into English. Rather than expound on the log we are presenting it to you as it was recorded, day by day, during the Atlantic crossing, and of the days along the coast which followed.

We, the Committee of this anniversary know you will enjoy it. It is indeed a wonderful story in itself.

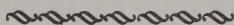
by
Dale Greenwell
For the Committee

JOURNAL OF THE VOYAGE

Made to the mouth of the River Mississippi

by two Frigates of the King

La Badine commanded by Monsieur d'Iberville and *Le Marin* by Monsieur Le Chevalier de Surgeres, that sailed from *Brest* on Friday, October 24th, 1698, where they had put in, having started from *La Rochelle* on the preceding September 5th.



On Friday, the 24th of October, 1698, we lifted anchor opposite *Brest*, at seven o'clock in the morning, *La Badine* having fired the signal gun at half past six. Emerging from the *Goulet* we met up with four men-of-war, *L'Esclatant*, *L'Oiseau*, *La Dauphine* and *L'Hercule*: forming the squadron of Monsieur de Coetlogon, Squadron Commander, who sent her chaloupe alongside *La Badine*, and fired a salute to her of seven guns when she pulled away. Monsieur de Coetlogon returned her one of five. We set the compass to west-quarter southwest so as to sail into deep waters. Toward five o'clock in the afternoon of the same day, we picked up *Quessant* which we passed at a distance of seven leagues in position north-northwest. I made the first observation of our position which I found to be in $48^{\circ} 12'$ of latitude north and in $10^{\circ} 40'$ of longitude. From that moment I set course to southwest, profiting by a fair fresh northeast wind, accompanied by a few mild squalls which caused the wind to veer to the east; in the morning we sighted eight ships, coming from the direction of *La Manche*, sailing in a direction south to southwest so as to pick up *Cape Finistarro*, I steered southwest from around five in the afternoon till noontime of the following day.

On Wednesday, the 29th, we became aware of two vessels sailing toward us under full sails, and we took them to be

saletins. Toward ten o'clock we hoisted our signal flag to ask *La Badine* to wait for us. A while later the two ships set their course due south; an hour later we sighted another ship following the same course. At three in the afternoon, we signalled to *La Badine* that we did not dare crowd on sails as we were taking four inches of water by the glass.

On Thursday, the 30th, we had variable winds from west to north. Towards seven in the evening, we saw a fire which must have been, we believed, the small traversier that had broken from its moorings two days before. In the morning we could only see the large one. The commandant hoisted the red pavilion. We came alongside under the wind; he asked us when we had lost sight of the small traversier; we answered him that we had seen a fire to the wind on the 11th, immediately following a squall, when the wind was blowing hard and it rained and there were peals of thunder. He asked us for our longitude and we gave it to him -----. He had arrived towards us with the wind behind, blowing south to southwest, in search of the smaller boat. After sailing about for awhile, he picked up the wind and went off.

On Monday, the 3rd of November towards six in the morning we lay alongside our ship to inspect it at larboard, as it was taking some little water around the treenail of one of the shrouds when riding high seas. At noon we sighted a ship toward the wind which we took to be our traversier. At four in the afternoon we came to realize that it was not.

On Tuesday, the fourth, towards eight o'clock in the morning, we picked up Porto-Santo of the Madiras, which we passed south to southwest.

On Friday, the 7th, we sailed between Porto-Santo and Maderia.

On Saturday, the 8th, we left Madeira behind us laying southeast to quarter south, at a distance of about ten leagues.

On Wednesday, the 19th, we passed the tropic of cancer, at 8 o'clock in the evening.

On Thursday, the 20th, toward half past nine, we sighted *La Ceremonie*.

On Tuesday, the 2nd of December, we sighted the eastern end of Saint-Domingue.

On Wednesday, we sighted the Cape ——— we ranged along the coast.

On Thursday, the 4th, at seven in the morning, we passed athwart on Leogane; we dropped anchor at Cape Francois at about half past four in the afternoon. The major told us that Monsieur Ducasse, the governor, had been expecting our arrival for a long time; that he was now at Port-de-Paix, fourteen leagues from here.

On Friday, the 5th, we sent the traversier, in charge of Monsieur des Jourdis, to bring him here.

On Wednesday, the 10th, the traversier returned. Monsieur des Jourdis told us that the governor was ill.

On Tuesday, the 11th, we sighted the *Francois* and the *Wesp*; the same evening, Monsieur de Grucy, ensign of the *Francois*, spent the night on board our ship. He left at two with the pilot of *La Badine*, to take in the *Francois*. He entered the harbor at two in the afternoon of that same day; the *Wesp* which was following not so very near bumped her, but no damage resulted.

On Sunday, the 14th, we left to go to Port-de-Paix. Four chaloupes from the King's ships towed our vessel safely through. At five that evening we arrived at Port-de-Paix. Emerging from the cape we sighted one small traversier, which had strayed away from us. A small boat from Port-de-Paix came up to us to show us where the anchorage was, thinking that we did not know, because we had fired a gun-shot a little while before our arrival. Monsieur the Chevalier de Surgeres, Monsieur L'Esquelet, ensign of *La Badine*, and Monsieur de Sauvolle showed Monsieur the governor around,

he received them well, and promised to give them all sorts of assistance. He, at once, wrote to Monsieur the Major of the Cape, ordering him to supply Monsieur d'Iberville with some poultry and everything else that he needed; he also wrote Monsieur de Groff to come aboard with Monsieur de Chasteaumorant so that he might join him at Leogane, also to make the trip with us as he had a thorough knowledge of the coast. They wrote to Monsieur de Chasteaumorant to ask him to come and seek Monsieur Ducasse, who will look after him well. A slave was sent to carry his baggage ashore.

On Tuesday, the 16th, Monsieur Ducasse, the governor, shipped aboard at eight in the morning; we at once set sails for Leogane.

On Wednesday, the 17th, in the evening, we sighted a ship. We at once made the cannons ready, but the calm weather prevented us from coming near.

On Friday, the 19th, at half past nine in the morning, we anchored at Leogane. All the notables of the place came aboard to pay their respects to Monsieur Ducasse, they all had dinner with us at two in the afternoon. Monsieur Ducasse left with all our officers. As they pulled away we fired a salute of nine guns. The two merchant ships answered with six and three. The same was done on land. Monsieur Ducasse at once gave orders to have the crew supplied with fresh bread, also some meat twice a day. Our officers were received at his house. He had made ready some Indian wheat, some negro slaves and everything else that we needed for the voyage. While awaiting *La Badine*, which was picking up some biscuits and other necessary things at the cape, the heat, the fruits, the debauch, caused some illness on board.

On Tuesday, the 23rd, Monsieur Leclerc, a King's scribe, died on shore, he was administered the sacrements.

On Thursday, the 25th, *Le Francois*, commanded by Monsieur the Marquis de Chasteaumorant, *La Badine*, and the

traversiers, came up. They anchored during the evening; the officers all had supper aboard *Le Marin*. They brought us the news that Monsieur Bertheir, the commissioner, had died at the Cape on the 17th. They brought with them Monsieur de Graff who is to make the trip with us. It is said that the English, who had announced back in Europe that they were going to the Mississippi, are now at the nearby Island of Porto-Bello.

On Thursday, the 1st of January, in the year 1699, at one in the morning, we set out under full sails, in a direction west to quarter northwest, before a fair and fresh northwest wind, to catch up with the other ships ahead of us. Around nine in the morning, *Le Francois* fired a gun across from the small Goave to signal to an officer who had gone there, he soon came aboard. We stayed becalmed until half past eight, when we endeavored under full sails to catch up with those ahead of us. Around ten o'clock Monsieur d'Iberville sent the biscayenne to Nippe to advise the small traversier that he had sent some refreshments. Toward five *La Badine* fired a cannon-shot to signal to her traversier and to the biscayenne. All day we had to cope with variable winds, often even getting almost becalmed; we continually bore down on *Le Francois* under small sails. Toward eight or nine in the evening, the small traversier fired a gun as an answer to *La Badine*. Toward midnight we talked to starboard, we set off three rockets and fired a cannon to warn *Le Francois* to heave to, because of *La Badine*, which we had left lying to before Nippe till four in the morning; before a light northeast wind, and finding ourselves too near the cape of the Caymans, we loosened our foresail and our two topsails so as to get farther from land.

On Friday, the 2nd, at dawn of day, *La Badine* remained to the east, almost at the horizon; as for *Le Francois*, we lost sight of it; having cruised all night, within sight of the point of the *Petit Goave*, we remained in position northwest-quarter-east. After bearing down in the direction of *La Badine*, for a while, we recognized her traversier and her

biscayenne both under full sails and showing her the way. Toward eleven o'clock we filled the sails; at one in the afternoon we took our chaloupe aboard; we experienced calm weather all day; toward ten o'clock we had a land breeze, we set our rudder to northwest to pull alongside *La Badine*.

On Saturday, the 3rd, at about six in the morning we sighted the *Goave* which we passed nine leagues to east-quarter-northeast, also the southern caymans; we saw *Le Francois* at the same time, in a position northwest from us and towards the horizon. At about two o'clock the wind freshened to north northwest a little; we steered west-northwest. We recognized the mole of Saint Nicholas which we left within a dozen leagues of us, in about north-northwest. At about six in the evening we picked up Cape Dalmarie, which we passed at a distance of twelve leagues to west-southwest; we fired rockets four or five times during the night for fear of our becoming separated. We have had northeast and north-northwest winds, it blowing and becoming calm at intervals; we did not crowd on sails because of the small traversier which could not have followed us.

On Sunday, the fourth, towards eight in the morning, we left Cape Dalmarie, fifteen leagues behind and to the southwest, the Mole of Saint-Nicholas was fifteen leagues to northeast-quarter north. *La Badine* was far behind us, because of great traversier she was waiting for, and *Le Francois* was on our starboard. We discovered that the currents had caused us to drift eastward. It had been calm almost all day, and also very hot. At sunset we picked up the eastern promontory of Cuba, which we passed twelve leagues away to north-northwest, the Mole of Saint-Nicholas twelve leagues to northeast, the cape Delmarie fifteen leagues; to south quarter southwest, and Ananas Island ten leagues to west-southwest. During the night the winds freshened to northeast, little wind; we steered under shortened sails west-northwest.

On Monday, the 5th, at six in the morning, we were in position south-southwest of the end of Cuba and north-

northwest of Cape Dalmarie. *Le Francois* under full sails arrived near us and under the wind, she put athwart in front *Le Badine* which held to the wind so as to speak to her. Afterward she waited for the great traversier which was far behind, and to which she gave a tow. *Le Badine* shouted for us to do likewise in the case of the small one. After that we crowded sails to take advantage of a light northeast wind; we then noticed that the currents were causing us to drift south. At sunset the Cape furthest east from Post de Palms was fifteen leagues northwest to quarter west, and the Point farthest east twelve leagues to northeast-quarter north, the center of the bay is directly north-west and the furthest point west of the Island of Saint-Domingue twenty leagues to the southwest. All night winds have blown from the east and the northeast, both fair and fresh; we have set our course west to quarter northwest.

On Tuesday, the 6th, at about eight in the morning, we sighted the farthest point east of the Bay of Saint-Jacques, which we passed about six leagues to northeast-quarter east, and the other point of the said Bay at northwest quarter west, eight leagues away. Towards ten o'clock we were athwart the Fortress, it is made up of two towers in the center of the bay and on the sea shore, they appear to be white. We bore west all day. Towards six in the evening, we sighted Cape Seville, west-quarter north-west and twelve leagues from us. The winds freshened up to east towards evening. We navigated west-south-west all night, so as to avoid the projecting capes. Toward four o'clock in the afternoon we became aware of the presence of four ships heeling away to the south.

On Wednesday, the 7th, around six o'clock in the morning, we left Point Porty northwest quarter west of us, at a distance of about eight leagues, and the Cape -----twelve leagues to northwest-quarter east. We have had the advantage of a moderate wind from six to eight this evening, for about

twenty-leagues, which has led us to believe that the currents run west.

On Thursday, the 8th, at about eight in the morning, we sighted the point east of Bay Machenil (Manzanilla?) which we passed at a distance of seven leagues to west-quarter northwest. Around ten o'clock the winds freshened to east-quarter southeast until about four in the afternoon; the point was left about three leagues to the north, at the end of which there is ——— which bear for half a league to west-south-west. We sighted a ship laying under sail in the Bay; *Le Badine* hoisted a Spanish pavilion. We sailed northwest all day, under full sails and with a good east wind back of us. Around six o'clock in the evening, we picked up Point Machenil which we passed about five leagues north-northeast. During the night the winds ranged from east-to quarter southwest; we laid our course to west-quarter south-west, the winds were southwest, to pass to the south of the Cayman Islands.

On Friday, the 9th, the winds continued to west-quarter south-west, till noon, when they veered to the south and we became almost becalmed while rain was falling; they later came back to southwest-quarter east. Around two in the afternoon we had the Little Caymans about three leagues to west-northwest of us, they form an aggregation of lands that extend for five leagues toward the east and the north west, their southeastern tip is made up of very low-lands. We sailed northwest, to pass it under the wind. Around six in the evening we were six leagues to the east of it, in latitude $19^{\circ} 14'$. From Friday the 9th until Saturday the 10th, at noon, the winds have been variable, from south to southwest, they have been strong winds and they forced us to take in our reefs and top-sails. We noticed, from our position, that the currents had carried us away to the northwest, the direction we had laid out called for a course to west-north-west, 4° west, in which direction we sailed for thirty leagues; observed latitude was $20^{\circ} 5'$; longitude $292^{\circ} 45'$. Around noon we perceived a boat heeling to the east of us and for which *La Badine* hoisted a Spanish pavilion.

From Saturday, the 10th to Sunday the 11th at noon, the wind continued to blow southwest, a strong wind blew till five in the evening, then suddenly it veered sharply to west-northwest. We paid off luff for luff; later we took in the other two reefs and our top-sails. A short time later the winds changed to northwest then to north-northeast. They became very strong, the sea choppy and with high waves. All these changes of directions, during the last twenty four hours, took us west-to quarter southwest then to southwest. We followed this course for seventeen leagues; observed latitude $19^{\circ} 50'$; longitude $291^{\circ} 56'$.

From Sunday, the 11th, at noon, until Monday the 12th, the winds have varied from north to northeast and the weather has been fine. We loosened the reefs of our top-sails. We followed several courses which took us, according to estimated positions, to north-west quarter west, 3° farther north, sailing seventeen leagues. Observed latitude $20^{\circ} 20'$; longitude $291^{\circ} 11'$.

From Monday the 12th to Tuesday the 13th, at noon, the winds have continued from northeast to north-northeast, which forced us to take in the two reefs in our top-sails. Squalls kept blowing from time to time as if we had remained under the land. We headed northwest, latitude $21^{\circ} 6'$; longitude $290^{\circ} 17'$.

From Tuesday the 13th to Wednesday the 14th, *La Badine* has crowded sails, this from early morning to bring us nearer land. The winds have been variable from north-northeast to due east, fair and fresh. We coursed due northwest until eight in the evening; we paid luff for luff. We kept the cape to southwest also kept up the two reefs on our top-sails; toward four in the morning, we hoisted our small sails on the other side. Most of the time our small top-sails hauled to the wind.

Wednesday, the 14th, we crowded sails at about six in the morning, with a wind blowing northwest, the cape being

north-northwest. Around eight o'clock in the morning we sighted land, it happened to be the point farthest east of Cape Corientes, about ten leagues north-northeast from us. It is extremely low land, not a tree is to be seen when only three leagues from it, but far in the distance one discerns the outline of several mountains. We bore away to northwest and to west-northwest to find the western end of the said Cape Corientes, which laid, around three o'clock about a league from us to the north-northwest. We ranged along the coast because of some low land extending some five leagues out. It looks like an island, only its tips and the land to the northwest being discernible, it is so flat that only the trees are to be seen because of a great depression existing towards east-northeast. From the point west of the Cape, at sunset, in position northwest-quarter west, we were seven leagues distant. At the same hour, Oliver Lagareme, native of Lorient, died and was buried at sea. At seven in the evening we ranged along the coast leading to Cape Saint-Antoine under shortened sails. About a league farther, around ten in the evening, we put athwart of an east wind, keeping the cape to the south of us, until four o'clock in the morning when we paid off luff for luff, to put the starboard tacks aboard and the trysail to the north while looking about for Cape Saint-Antoine, which we sighted toward six o'clock in the morning, with the wind toward us.

On Thursday, the 15th during the morning, the said cape laid two leagues from us to the north-quarter northeast; we veered aft about a league away, because of shallow waters, at a point five leagues west-northwest of the said Cape, halfway along the length of the reef of Cape Catoche that marks the beginning of the Gulf and off dangerous waters. There are only twenty-five leagues of navigable waters; at noon the said Cape Saint-Antoine was south-west to us, about six leagues distant. Its position placed us north-quarter west of a north-east wind; having established our position as being in $22^{\circ} 6'$ observed latitude by $288^{\circ} 28'$ longitude.

On Friday, the 16th, at noon, and until Saturday the 17th, the winds varied from east to south; we steered north for the whole twenty-four hours. However, our actual route has been only north-quarter northwest. The currents having deflected us ten leagues towards the southeast; observed latitude $23^{\circ} 56'$.

On Saturday, the 17th, at noon, until noon on Sunday the 18th, the winds continued south, and we had fair weather. We sailed north-quarter northwest until midnight, and north northwest until noon, covering an estimated twenty-eight leagues, and by actual degrees of latitude observed twenty one leagues, which leads us to believe that the currents, are still pulling us toward the southeast. This course has only taken us north quarter northeast; observed latitude 24° .

On Sunday the 18th, at noon, till the next Monday at noon, the winds varied from west to southwest to south, the weather was fine. We sailed north-northwest from midnight to four o'clock. We lowered our small top sail down the west, so as to wait for *Le Francois* who was lagging behind; we steered north-northwest for twenty leagues; observed latitude $25^{\circ} 55'$.

On Monday, the 19th, at noon, till noon on Tuesday the 20th, the winds did not change. Toward five o'clock we met a fog, it stayed with us for three hours. Towards nine in the morning, we sounded without finding bottom, and were almost becalmed. Soon a fog came out to the north-east, and gusts of wind blew around all at once, this caused us to have to take in the reefs of our topsails, this weather lasted through to the afternoon. Our estimated program has been $26^{\circ} 54'$; in distance twenty leagues.

On Tuesday, the 20th, at noon, till Wednesday noon, the 21st the winds varied from northeast to southwest. We shortened our sails down to the two lower ones, around ten in the evening. *Le Francois* heaved to, so as to do some sounding; we did likewise but could not find bottom. We hoisted our large topsail, and the two reefs within. Towards

night, the skies became cloudy, the continuous thunder and lightening lasted until six in the morning, at which time we shortened our large topsail and loosened our mainsail. A while later the winds veered sharply to southeast to south and southwest. We met with a sudden squall, the winds blew and it rained in such torrents that we had to loosen our foresail and heave to under bare poles; the skies were so obscured that at seven it did not seem like daytime. Later the winds moderated to southeast and to west-southwest, we got underway using our lower sails, the seas were a bit heavy; the day was only good for thirty-three leagues; observed latitude $28^{\circ} 33'$.

On Wednesday, the 21st, at noon, till Thursday the 22nd, at noon, the winds were west-southwest until five o'clock in the afternoon.

We had west and southwest winds all night. It did become so calm that it was difficult to steer the rudder. Toward three in the morning, we swung around to our other side. The winds having changed to southwest, we followed several courses, we only made progress in a norther direction; we sailed three leagues; estimated latitude $28^{\circ} 38'$.

On Thursday the 22nd, at noon, to Friday the 23rd at noon, the winds held southwest; at sunset we heaved to, to do some sounding. No bottom. Toward ten in the evening sounded again and found seventy brasses of water, with bottom of mud and a small percentage of fine sand. Toward three in the morning we again took a larboard tack aboard position and fired rockets all night because the fog had become quite thick; we heaved to all night. Around six in the morning Monsieur d'Iberville set us in pursuit of the traversiers, with which we caught up soon after. Since six o'clock this morning the winds have been variable, from west-northwest to north, they did not last long. All our various courses added together in the last twenty-four hours have only been good for progress in a north-quarter northwest direction. We sounded again and found sixty brasses of water, some bottom

mud and fine sand, we made twenty leagues; estimated latitude $29^{\circ} 38'$.

On Friday the 23rd, at noon, till Saturday the 24th, the winds have remained north-northwest, light wind. Toward two o'clock we sounded again and found forty brasses, bottom of greyish sand, a bit coarser, mixed with small shells; at four o'clock thirty brasses, some bottom, but coarser. Around five in the evening, *La Badine* hoisted a Dutch pavilion so as to anchor; we sighted land at that same time, it seemed to be laying very low. We may have been six leagues from it. We ranged along *La Badine*, she shouted to us to crowd on sails toward land, to come nearer to her, which we did. Later we anchored across her bow, in about thirty brasses; same bottom. We saw a fire toward north northwest, which burned all night, set by Indians of the Floridas. A strong east-northeast wind blew all night, it was extremely cold. Latitude: $29^{\circ} 57'$.

Saturday the 24th, toward six in the morning, we met up with a northeast wind. We set our course north-northwest and west-northwest, toward the small traversier, which was three leagues under the wind from us. The *Francois* and *La Badine* pulled closer to the wind to better see the landfall. Around ten in the morning we gave a tow to the small traversier. After that we made for north-quarter northwest so as to rejoin our vessels. We sounded and found the depth to be thirty brasses, mud bottom with black sand. Two hours later, we found bottom made of corals and pumice; four leagues from land, twenty-two brasses; at three leagues, nineteen and eighteen brasses, fine sandy bottom. Since noon, when we rejoined our ships, we ranged alongside the coast at a distance of two leagues. At sunset we anchored in eighteen brasses.

On Sunday the 25th, around seven in the morning, we sailed under an east wind; we kept as close to the wind as we could; the biscayenne went toward shore to reconnitre a cape inside which there seemed to be a river, she could not find

the entrance. We arrived to the west, we sounded and found twelve brasses; we discovered more than fifteen leagues of flat lands, stretching out to northwest and west southwest. They seemed covered with extremely fine sands that looked like brilliants, they were so white.

Around ten in the morning, we discovered a great lake, running toward the west and in the middle of which there seemed to be some land covered with a quantity of very tall trees. All day long the prevailing winds were from the east; the weather was fine. The two traversiers ranged alongside the coast for its whole length always the range of a boucanier; they found five brasses of water. Toward six o'clock in the evening we anchored in twelve brasses, fine sands. The winds continued from the east with some fog. The tide flowed to west; and in the harbor it flowed north and south. The coast lines run east to west.

On Monday, the 26th, around six in the morning, the same east winds prevailed, also the fog. Toward nine o'clock we sighted a very low cape, west of which there seemed to be a pass, in which were anchored two ships. An hour later, the fog got thicker and thicker, *Le Francois* fired five gun-shots signal for us to anchor in ten brasses, fine sandy bottom. We fired several musket-shots to signal the traversiers, who fired likewise, in fear that they would pull away from us in the fog. The two ships we had seen in the lake fired two cannon-shots and sent over a chaloupe to find out who we were. She came within half a league from us and put back when we hoisted our pavilion. All night the winds blew east, the weather was fine, but with a very thick fog.

On Tuesday the 27th, Monsieur de Lesguelet, lieutenant of *La Badine*, went to look over the two frigates. They were Spanish ships, one of eighteen and the other of twenty cannons they have been there four months trying to establish a colony. Their commander has received him very well. He told them that the King had heard that five or six hundred Canadians had come down to seize the mines and that we had

sent down to arrest them, that we had captured these two traversiers, who were pirate ships, and that having been told by them that there was another one of some fifty to sixty pieces, *Le Francois*, who was at Saint-Domingue, had joined us, that we wanted to take on wood and water and that it was thus necessary for us to enter. The commandant said that he had orders not to let any one enter, but nevertheless he allowed Monsieur de Lesquelet to come in, and the major and his chaloupe came back. In getting clear we fired three cannon-shots as a salute. They have a fort made of stake-posts, and they number about three hundred men, they have with them two Augustines and two Recollets. Monsieur de Lesquelet and the Spanish Major came aboard the *Francois*, around two in the afternoon, with a few presents for Monsieur the Marquis de Chasteaumarant who sent them back with a few demi-johns of wine. The major went back to his post, and we fired seven cannon shots as a salute.

On Wednesday the 28th, the canots (ship-boats) from our three ships went to sound at the entrance of the river named by the Spaniards Sante-Maria de Galves de Pensacola. They found a very fine harbor, the least water was twenty-feet, according to reports made by Messieurs Surgeres and d'Iberville, who went there themselves. Around noon a chaloupe from the two frigates, in which was the captain, went alongside the *Francois*, bearer of an order forbidding us to enter. We had already lifted anchor but let it drop right back then. They said that we had only to anchor at the entrance and they would fetch both wood and water to us; their sailors told the men of the *Francois* that it was feared that we had only come along the coast to establish ourselves there. Our officers decided it a good policy to pass on yonder. It is certainly a very fine harbor, at least as good as that of Brest (In Brittany) and we lost a chance at it on account of our coming too late. There are enough fine trees there to supply with masts all of France. Around six in the evening we hauled our chaloupe aboard, regretting to have to leave such a fine spot.

On Thursday, the 29th, we were becalmed in a heavy fog with variable winds which kept us from getting undersail.

On Friday, the 30th, around half past seven, we set sail in an east-northeast wind to reconnoitre the Bay of the Mobile. We came to within three leagues from land. We made southwest to quarter west and west to southwest up to four in the afternoon, then we steered toward the southwest, having found only five brasses of water. The *Francois*, who had been all that time some distance from us, also reported having found only five brasses. He kept to the wind, taking an outward course. A while later he rejoined us; we anchored around six in the evening in nine brasses; bottom made up of fine sand.

On Saturday, the 31st, around seven in the morning, we bore to the west, then to quarter northwest, about noon; we discovered a tide-gate, out of the bay of the Mobile. We at once hove to, thinking that we were getting in shallow waters; we sent our chaloupe to make some soundings, and found eight brasses of water, then we marked time, we sailed back past the tide-gate and anchored in these same waters; we found the bottom good. Monsieur de Villantrey was sent out, together with a pilot, to sound around the Mobile with two traversiers. Around six in the evening the larger one of the two ran aground, the tide having forced it over a sand-bank. It fired several cannon-shots, but we could only perceive the flashes. A short while later it managed to get afloat again. The winds blew hard from the southeast all during the night; two hours before daylight they veered to south southwest and it rained torrents. We could not hold to in the wind, although the latter was blowing strong enough, but the currents were stronger, they ran in a course southwest.

On Sunday the 1st of February, around ten in the morning, our felucca having returned from her trip of exploration reported having been unable to find water, according to the

report made to Monsieur de Lesquelet. The latter, having once more boarded his ship, stated that he had five brasses of water, which caused Monsieur d'Iberville to go there himself, together with Monsieur de Sauvolle. These two traversiers have been forced to anchor because of the currents and the winds from the southwest that were causing them to drift landward. We got under sails, using our topsails to pull away as we were anchored much too near a reef connected with the mainland and breaking out all around here. Inside of it there is a small islet completely under water, in a position east to west of the headland surrounding the bay of Mobile, and two other large islets still more submerged, distant from the mainland by about three leagues. In the last twenty-four hours the winds have remained variable and it has rained much, lightning has been flashing and heavy clouds are overhanging to the south, all forewarnings of bad weather.

On Monday, the 2nd, the winds were always east and southeast, it rained continually, toward evening the winds veered southeast and south and to southwest. It started blowing toward midnight; heavy winds to the west; we slipped a cable and a half.

On Tuesday the 3rd, the winds continued west, bad weather, high seas and colder towards noon; winds blowing from west to quarter northwest, moderating toward evening to northwest, where they remained all night.

On Wednesday the 4th, the winds remained north and northwest, gentle winds. At eleven o'clock Monsieur d'Iberville arrived aboard his ship, from where he had been away since Sunday, the bad weather having prevented his return. He reports having found only two feet of water in the pass, which also winds around much; inside farther there is a great lake, depth five brasses, with a river discharging into it having both ebb and flow, and whose tides are northwest and southeast. This river has such a swift current that its waters are all muddy, pines sweeping down its midst, would make masts of

prodigious heights and diameters. Our men killed several bustards and discovered several huts inhabited by savages; on one of these islets they found a large pirogue that had run aground, and several clay pots. They also discovered more than sixty heads, partly buried in the sand, and many other bones, it must have been a scene of a battle. These savages are spread out along the coast and are vagabonds; when they are surfeited with meat they come to the sea to eat fish, where it is found in abundance. Our men caught some that weighed more than 20 pounds. At one in the afternoon, *La Badine* hoisted the pavilion of Ostend to signal to us to get under sails. We weighed up our kedge-anchor, it was to the southeast where we had dropped it for fear of fouling our main anchor. Between two and three we were under sails picking up some gentle north winds, weather serene. We made for west to west-quarter southwest. We bore close to the wind. A while later the winds blew from the north; at sunset we took our position, it had varied one degree. Around six o'clock we anchored in fourteen brasses, muddy sandy bottom. Towards three in the afternoon we took our latitude using the polar star, which was the time she crossed to her meridian over the pole. We were then in a position three leagues south of the end of the Bay of Mobile. The wind blew from the north all during the night; gentle winds, weather cold and serene. The *Bay of La Mobile*, so named by the Spaniards is situated, according to the observation we have made, in latitude 30° and in longitude $28^{\circ} 6'$.

On Thursday, the 5th, we sailed under a gentle north wind; we made west and west-quarter southwest, and at noon observed latitude $29^{\circ} 50'$. Toward three o'clock the winds suddenly became west-southwest. We set our course ranging to the northwest. Around five o'clock *Le Francois* swung around to course in the open sea, finding itself too near land at sunset, we reached for a higher latitude, and sighted the islets of the Bay of La Mobile and there an island whose extreme tip seemed to be a flat cape, a league distant from

the mainland and running east to west of the Bay of La Mobile, a distance of some fifteen leagues separate the two islets some three leagues out. Toward five in the evening, we anchored in ten brasses about four leagues to the southwest of this island, and found the bottom made up of mud and some sand. The winds ranged to the west all night, the weather was fine; the currents run to the southeast. When we took our latitude we were three leagues away from land.

On Friday the 6th, around six in the morning, the biscayenne from *La Badine* went to reconnoitre a pass which seemed to lag between the islets we just sailed away from and the mainland; *The Francois* and the traversiers, which were behind us, hoisted sail about that time to rejoin us. Around six o'clock, we sailed away under gentle north winds and brought to the west, then to the northwest and to west-northwest. Toward four o'clock, we made to west-southwest, with a southeast wind, so as to get further away from land. At sunset the tip of this island lay four leagues north-northwest from us. We anchored around six o'clock in eleven brasses, bottom of sandy mud; the winds have stayed variable; the biscayenne anchored close to the shore of the islet, so as to set out in the early morning to explore the others, inshore of which we want to anchor. The islet we have mentioned up about is situated in latitude 30° and longitude $282^{\circ} 34'$.

On Saturday the 7th, at seven in the morning, we sailed with a west southwest wind experiencing fine weather; we coursed northwest from land, until nine o'clock when we changed sides, and brought to the south. We sighted an islet southwest on the horizon and also the biscayenne coursing between the two islets trying to find a pass. Toward half past ten, we bent the bow around again, bringing to northwest and to west-northwest, with the same west-southwest to southwest winds. Between eleven o'clock and noon, the biscayenne pulled alongside *La Badine*, which reported having discovered nothing, according to Monsieur d'Iberville, we sighted an islet, four leagues to the northwest and also several

others to the southwest, forming a large shelter. The soundings kept showing ten brasses; we observed our latitude: $29^{\circ} 55'$. At half past one in the afternoon we tacked about in a west to quarter northwest wind, bringing our bow to southwest-quarter south. Around three o'clock with winds ranging to the southeast, we reached the islet laying in a northwest position from us. We dropped anchor around five in eight and a half brasses of water, mud bottom, holding well. Three leagues to the southwest of the said islet we found the tides running east and west; the wind blew to the west all night fair and fresh.

On Sunday, the 8th, toward six in the morning Monsieur de Surgeres went in the small felucca to reconnoitre around a small islet west-northwest of us and also around another to the south. We found the tides running east and west; the winds were variable.

On Monday, the 9th, around nine o'clock in the morning, we sailed under east winds with both our small topsail and our mizzen sail to go anchor under the shelter of an islet and away from the southwinds, which are the winds the most to be feared along these coasts. We heaved to for about an hour, while the small traversier went sounding ahead of us. Toward noon we anchored in seven brasses, in a muddy bottom, about a league and a half from the said islet and to the south.

On Tuesday, the 10th, around seven in the morning the winds being to the east, and blowing gently, we sailed away to find anchorage to the north of this islet, around which Monsieur the Chevalier de Surgeres had been making soundings for several days before. We made northwest to quarter north in search of the large traversier, that had anchored in the pass; then afterwards we navigated towards the western tip of the islet, which we ranged to within shot of a boucanier. We used our chaloupes ahead to pull us forward, as much because of the calm weather as because of the tides which were taking us west. We were at that time at large from the point,

and as we pulled inside we found some counter-tides which took us east. We did not ever find less than four brasses of water the whole way, this forced the *Francois* to anchor in five brasses. She not wanting to take the risk of coming nearer than a half league, from the said isle, although her draft is only seventeen feet. As the winds always blew from the southwest, and as the fog was thick we had to anchor and later we found ourselves nearly a half league from shore and in position southeast to quarter east. Toward six in the evening, we anchored in twenty-two feet of water, found the bottom to be of soft mud and moored across southeast to northwest. The eastern point of the islet is covered with a quantity of trees and lies east-northeast, the other end is made up of flat lands and lies southwest-quarter west. In this anchorage we are sheltered from winds ranging from east-northeast to southwest by the first islet and from west winds by another islet, distant from the first by about two leagues. The two islets lie in a position east and west, leaning a bit to northwest and are in latitude 30° , we are anchored between the two, another being farther west and in longitude 282° ; on the north side, one is under the shelter of a large island, which would seem to be part of the mainland, as we cannot see its end, and which may be in latitude $30^{\circ} 22'$, being to the north of the islet, four leagues from where we are anchored, so that in fact we are surrounded by islands on all sides; the tides under this island run east to west.

On Wednesday, the 11th, we began at dawn of day to unload the wood from our biscayenne on shore, and to raise up a tent on which our men worked all day. The winds blew south all day long and the weather was fine; toward evening it became cloudy. We had some thunder and much lightning; during the night they both came from the west and it became windy, after midnight the winds turned north and northwest, it became very cold and it began to blow a gale.

On Thursday, the 12th, in the morning, we pulled down our topsail mast and we used our topsail yard instead; towards

noon the weather was again fine, the winds having moderated; in the evening *La Badine* fired three cannon-shots as signals to the savages who had had fires burning; during the night the winds continued to blow steady. On our northside it was very cold.

On Friday the 13th, Monsieur d'Iberville having, the day before, seen the fire signals lighted on the large island, decided to go there and took Father Anasthasius with him. He took his biscayenne and a small bark-canoe, because our Canadians had used a similar vehicle. We got ashore at two in the afternoon. We found tracks of the savages, they had apparently left only that very morning. We built some shelters; the dry grasses having been set afire the savages saw our smoke.

On Saturday the 14th, after breakfast, we walked along the coast; Monsieur d'Iberville and his savage soon picked up the tracks of two savages who had come forward to reconnoitre. Monsieur d'Iberville came back to our fire and placed around two hatchets, four knives, some glass-beads, some vermillion, and two pipes full of tobacco, as presents to show them that we meant peace. Later the chaloupe and the small bark-canoe went coasting along the shore. Monsieur d'Iberville, his savage and Father Anasthasius, having walked along for a distance of about half a league caught sight of three savages. They ran after them, being unable to catch up with them and seeing them embark in their canoes, he waited for his own canoe, unfortunately it had lagged behind. He however, finally got aboard and forced them to put to shore and to abandon what they had with them. They left behind an ailing old man to whom he gave some presents and to whom he made understand that we were not here to make war, but to make peace. He understood very well what we told him and was much pleased by it. Finally they told him that they were going back to seek their shelters, some quarter league from there. That same evening we again came down to see him. He made us understand, through signs, that he wanted

us to help him and to make a fire. We did both with pleasure. One of his legs was rotting away. Some of our men who had gone hunting, had surprised an old woman who had tried to hide herself; they brought her to the old man, at the spot where we were. She thought her last day had come. We gave her some presents. She was a witness to our kindness to the old man, who promised us that as soon as his people returned he would have them pound up some Indian wheat (corn), that we might have a feast. We left them together and came back to our shelters. The old woman went to her people, that same evening and gave them a complete account of what had just passed.

On Sunday the 15th, in the morning, Monsieur d'Iberville and Father Anasthasius went again to see the old man; unfortunately the grasses near him had caught fire and he had had all he could do pulling away. We put the fire out, and laid him on a bear skin. The poor wretch died before our very eyes, half an hour later. We heard the other savages coming down chanting. We waited for them a while, but they became seized with fear; they dared not come nearer and we had to return to our shelters. Towards ten o'clock they met up with our hunters who gave them such reassurances that they were able to bring them down chanting and carrying in their hands some sort of sticks shaped in the form of pipes; we embraced them, rubbing bellies together. We gave them smoking tobacco and all sorts of presents. Later Monsieur d'Iberville sent to one of the shelters to fetch the caldron and we all ate together. At the same time two old women kept pounding down some Indian wheat to offer it to us for a feast later, which they did. They called us their allies, we learned a few words of their language and finally retired for the night.

On Monday, the 16th, the chaloupe took a run along the coast. Monsieur d'Iberville, his brother, Father Anasthasius and several other of us went to take a look at the huts our men had seen the day before. We came up to some marshes hard to travel. Two of our men, forming an advance guard,

having sighted them, fired their guns to signal to us; we headed for the spot immediately. The weather was exceedingly fine. Having come up to them we gave presents to those we had not met before. We proposed to them that if some of their numbers would come with us, in the chaloupe, we had there, we would leave three of our men with them as hostages, they accepted our proposition. Monsieur de Iberville, left his brother named Monsieur de Bienville, a marine guard; we embarked immediately in the chaloupe with three of the savages. We reached our vessels at three o'clock in the afternoon. We treated them well and gave them considerable presents. They remained with us one night, the other savages being within range of pistol-shot from the ships. The chief entoned the chant of peace.

On Tuesday, the 17th, we maneuvered the vessels for their benefit, we showed them the cannons and fired some cannon-shots before their very eyes. They could not get over what they saw. After the noon hour Monsieur d'Iberville embarked with them to take them back. A fine south wind was blowing, and when he got there he found all the savages assembled awaiting him, to present him with the calumet; he gave them presents of all sorts. They let him know that they hated the Spaniards. He spent Wednesday the 18th with them; they promised to go along with him. They mentioned the names of their allies; who are the Houmas and the Tangipohas, of whom our men had heard when descending the Mississippi. They told Monsieur d'Iberville that they were going to go hunting and kill some animals that he might have a feast, that they would bring him some buffaloes, of which there are great numbers, some roebucks, and some turkeys, that they were going some three leagues from us and would be back in three days, that as soon as they returned from their hunt they would signal to us by means of a big smoke, and that as soon as he sees it he should fire three cannon-shots. There being a good northwind, Monsieur d'Iberville set sail immediately to return aboard, he arrived there on the 19th at noon. He told us all these good news and we all rejoiced. They had admired

amongst other things the marine telescope. They could not understand how one could see so far from one end and so near from the other. The eau-de-vie, which burns going down, also astonished them. They promised that after the feast they would come with us to the Mississippi. They said that having heard cannon-shots they had come down and found war raging at the Quinipassas, twenty-five leagues up the Mississippi. They knew that Monsieur de La Salle had fought against these.

On Saturday, the 21st, Monsieur the Marquis de Chasteau-merant set sail for Saint-Domingue, around six o'clock in the morning. At midday we sighted smoke at the place the savages had designated; Monsieur d'Iberville who was dining aboard *Le Marin* immediately had the cannon fired three times; toward evening we fired two more shots. The two biscayennes were made ready to sail.

On Sunday morning, the 22nd, Monsieur d'Iberville, Monsieur de Lesquelet, lieutenant of *La Badine*, Monsieur de Surgeres, Monsieur de Sauvolle, ensign on *Le Marin*, with all the Canadians aboard, left at seven o'clock for the feast, they had a wind from the east.

On Monday the 23rd, and on Tuesday the 24th, heavy winds from the north; this was the reason that the savages did not come, our gentlemen waited for them.

On Wednesday the 25th, Monsieur de Surgeres, Monsieur de Lesquelet and Monsieur de Sauvolle returned at four in the afternoon, Monsieur d'Iberville having remained behind to wait for the savages. The savages having finally arrived the two feluccas were made ready, that an early start might be made the next morning to go and explore the river of the Pascagoulas. Taking along provisions enough to last for ten or twelve days; Messieurs de le Villantrey, des Jourdis, ensigns, with two pilots, embarked in the two feluccas to go and explore the river aforesaid, which is situated to the east of our ships. They went to the mainland to find Monsieur d'Iberville and to take his orders. This river is situated ten

leagues east-northeast from the island off which we are anchored. We have found, northwest from here, an island which stretches out for a league from the southeast to the northwest, on the inside of which there are three brasses of water, and where ships can anchor sheltered from the winds, it is on the way to the river. There we were able to take on wood and water; it is not distant from the mainland more than two leagues, but from it to the river there is very little depth of water. The river has a mouth a good league in width. Its waters discharge into the sea through four courses which are separated by two islets that lay at its mouth. Monsieur d'Iberville returned from shore where he had remained in an effort to find some few savages who might have knowledge of the river Mississippi, those who had promised to treat him to a feast four days ago having broken their word, either because of the bad weather that prevailed or because their hunt was not successful.

On Friday, the 27th, Monsieur d'Iberville, his brother, and twenty men, embarked on the *biscayenne*. Monsieur de Sauvolle, the lieutenant of *Le Marin*, with Father Anasthasius, the Recollet; Cateau, the pilot, and twenty men embarked aboard the other *biscayenne*, which brought our expedition up to a total of one hundred and fifty-one men, counting both the Canadians and the filibusters we had picked up off the coast of Saint Domingue, who were to settle down in case we found the proper spot to establish a settlement. We have with us enough provisions to last twenty days, we are all armed with rifles, pistols, sabers, bayonets, swords, and we carry two *pierriers* on each *biscayenne*, to defend ourselves against attacks from the savages in case they should show any opposition to our trip of discovery.

The same day, around nine o'clock in the morning, we set under sails each with a canoe of bark in tow, with a southeast wind blowing rather strong, and under overcast skies. We kept southwest to quarter west during one watch. Later we hugged closer to the winds, they blowing south-southeast, that we might keep clear from an island laying two leagues

away from the one where we had been anchored. To the south of this island we found shallow waters, where the seas rolled quite a bit. Continuing our course to southwest and to southwest quarter south we found four small islets, which were really only sand banks, laying very close to one another and stretching out in a north to south direction, and from which we kept some quarter league away, the waters being only two feet deep around them. The sea here is calm, although there is a good wind blowing, we being on the shelter side of other islets further away; the winds having veered suddenly to northeast, we steered south close to an islet, and heaved astern several times, there being only two and a half feet of water. Having sailed for some two leagues, southeast, of this islet, we discovered another shelter, access to the land running about east-southeast is shut off by several islets which are under water in bad weather. We sailed three leagues in directions south-west quarter west to south south-west, so as to avoid a quantity of islets laying about on our course. Toward half past five, we landed on the tip of an island stretching out north and south, where we built some shelters, but we were unable to find any fresh water.

On Saturday, the 28th, around six o'clock in the morning, we embarked again, but in such foggy weather that it was almost impossible to see ahead, it soon cleared, however. We coursed alternately south and west, to avoid a number of islets, until we reached a recess, formed by a large island partially submerged, through which we wanted to try to sail. We finally landed there. We found quantities of oysters, which were not as good as those of Europe, the waters being brackish between the islets, because of those of the river spreading out through them during the months of April and May. We stayed there an hour; having been unable to find a channel we then retraced our course. Having sailed out of this recess we made southeast along the river's course. This river in its middle seems to be quite close to the mainland, it branches out in two places, one to the southeast, the other to the northwest, far from the inland there seems to be a lake.

At the southeastern point of this island there is a small lake running straight across it and through which we wanted to sail to shorten our route; we could not find enough depth so that we had to continue on our same route. Out of the same point there is a small islet, not farther from it than the range of a boucanier, we sailed between the two. Having passed the point we sighted a land running in direction west-north west, and another again running in directions southwest-quarter west, they are only islets that the sea covers over in bad weather, the soil even shakes under foot when one drops something heavy on the ground. From there we made west-southwest, the winds being then south. We spied a pass between two islets in which we entered around four in the afternoon, and where we settled. Around five a storm arose from the northwest. It thundered and there was lightning with rain falling continually all night, the whole accompanied by strong variable winds. We spread out our sails and pavilions to catch the rain water, having but little drinking water, being unable to find any on the island, and not knowing where our course would take us to.

On Sunday, the 1st of March, the bad weather continued, it rained until noon, when the winds changed to west-north-west, overcast weather, light winds blowing, the morning of the same day. Monsieur d'Iberville had us cut down branches from small trees growing in these islands, to lay on the ground in our shelters, there being more than a half a foot of water there, as well as on most of the island, so that we had to stand up along the fires during all the rain. We bored all over the island in an effort to find drinking water, but all that was found was brackish. We killed several wildcats; we remained until Monday in this sad place.

Monday, around six in the morning, we set sails in a north wind of fair strength. We coursed in zig-zag fashion, between southwest and south-southeast, to escape from the labyrinth of islets that surrounded us. After rounding a point, where we had to heave astern, we sighted the mainland running south to southeast, we ranged along its shore all the way; the seas were so high that we had to spread out the faignes, which

are made of tan impregnated canvas about a foot wide, along our rails to keep the seas from shipping aboard. We put too for a while so as to bring too nearer land, also in fear of our going beyond the river. We saw the shore line still running south-southeast and straight southeast; we held closer to the wind, using our reefs and our mainsail, trying to come up to the coast, the winds were blowing hard in that direction. After having spent more than two hours battling the seas, which were engulfing us, and fearing to have the waters pile in top of us because of a canoe of bark which we had moored to us, Monsieur d'Iberville made the coast with the wind at his stern, and we followed him, bent upon beaching our small boats, and counting on floating them again later to use them to return to our vessels, there being no other way for us, as the lands were all inundated and full of lakes. We sighted what looked like a pass, between two small bits of rising ground that seemed to form small islands. We took aboard some water and tasted it, on finding it to be fresh water it gave us much pleasure, in the state of consternation we were in. A while later we perceived that the water had become muddy and all different. As we came nearer we discovered the passes of the river, they were three in number, and through them there ran a current so strong that we could scarcely make any headway, although we had a strong wind with us. We sailed between these land rises. We sighted in the middle of the pass a breaker against which we feared we were going to wreck ourselves having had great trouble in rounding it because of our having sighted it too late. This breaker lies northeast to southwest of the land rises which are the farthest into the river on the larboard side, when coming in. The entrance to this river runs in a position southeast to west-northwest, and may be about four leagues wide at the mouth, the shores run along the same rhumb of the wind and are made up of two tongues (langues) of land, within range of a boucanier from each other, so that it is possible for one to sight the sea from both the shores of this river; it itself runs along the coast and this is the reason for its shores being both so inundated. Around four in the afternoon, we put

about a league and a half into the river, we were surrounded by reeds, which border its shores on both sides, they are so thick, it is almost impossible to see through them, and it is impossible to go through without first breaking them, beyond the coast is full of impenetrable marshlands. The Coast is also lined up with trees that have roots of prodigious length, and which the strength of the current carries away to the sea. It is impossible to put foot on land without vaulting over them, they float no more than half a foot out of the water. We discovered two small bodies of water, branching out like the small rivulate in France, they disappear into the sea towards the north. We have an abundance of water for our use now, but in exchange we have had to cut down on the bread, only eating some pap mixed in with a bit of lard. We always keep sentries about, for fear of some surprise. We found only about twelve feet of water in the pass and the tide may account for two feet, it has a smooth bottom and, inside, the depth is from twelve to fifteen brasses, so that ships can keep their bowsprit to shore, the latter is all scraped.

On Tuesday, the 3rd, toward seven in the morning, the services of the mass were held and we chanted a *Te Deum* to celebrate our acquaintance with the river Mississippi. Afterwards we had a short breakfast, as we wanted to conserve the provisions, having few measures of peas, and a barrel of flour for the two biscayennes. We set sails under a wind from the east. We came later upon a great arm of water running in a direction north-northeast and breaking out into smaller arms all around. Toward nine in the morning one of our masts was knocked down by a sudden squall across two arms of water, one running to southeast, and the other to southwest, they are close to each other and only three leagues from the mouth of the river. We immediately put to shore to adjust our mast, and found, on this spot, a quantity of raspberries (dewberries probably) that were almost ripe, also here and there a few trees that were of medium sizes. The two shores of the river now run west to northwest. At five leagues from its mouth, both shores are only a boucanier's range from each other;

there are a number of small trees along both sides, principally on our starboard side. At its entrance it seems to be wider as no land is discernible. We saw quantities of game along the coast, ducks, bustards, sarcelles and sarrigue, the latter being an animal that carries its offspring in a bag in its stomach. Between five and six in the afternoon we made for land and built shelters ashore. A few of our men went to hunt, they discovered several kinds of animals, some stags, roebucks and buffaloes; it is rather fine country. The winds were east-northeast all day, fair and fresh, it was rather biting cold. We covered eight leagues, the sail being of great help to us. (Iberville's account states they put into a small side stream which he named, because it was Tuesday before Lent, Mardi Gras bayou. SCA.)

We might now be some ten leagues from the mouth of the river; we filled the caldron for our supper, as usual. The Canadians and the filibusters stood watch all during the night, being relieved from time to time by men from our ships. We filled the caldron again, two hours before daylight for breakfast.

On Wednesday, the 4th, Ash Wednesday, everyone received the ashes on the forehead, then we offered the sacrifice of the Mass. After having planted a cross and having had our breakfast, we embarked again, this toward seven o'clock. Being becalmed we rowed for about two leagues. The river runs up toward northwest to quarter west, then to northwest-quarter north, and to north-northwest. We saw some boats that were made up of some three sections of cane bundled together, with small pieces of wood tied across the tops and bottoms, they tapered to a point at the ends so that they might navigate easier. The savages use these boats when they go hunting to cross streams from the one side to the other. Around six in the afternoon we made for land, and put ashore for the night. We climbed some trees, and discovered the sea laying about half a league from us. We found the current swifter than usual. One of our bark canoes, with three of our men, that had lagged behind in the hunt sighted, while mounting

the course of the river, three crocodiles (alligators) along the shore. We travelled eight leagues this time, being greatly helped by the sail. The woods are getting larger but are not very thick. We can see through them that there are very marshy lands all around. We have covered about eighteen to nineteen leagues in the river.

On Thursday, the 5th, three of our men started at dawn, to go hunting; they found many tracks and heard the howling of the beasts. We planted a cross and we put our mark on several of the trees. We also fired a shot from the pierrier to signal to the savages. We had an ordinary breakfast, eating pap made with water and lard. We save our lard for breakfast. We sighted a crocodile as big around as one of our thighs, basking in the sun along the shore. Our men jumped immediately in the bark canoe we had in tow and fired a shot at him; he plunged in the river at once. Around eleven o'clock we saw a great deal of smoke that must have been set off by fires of savages on the hunt, they do this as much to help the dried grass grow again as to smoke out the animals, and thus kill them more easily. At noonday we landed ashore for dinner, the winds being contrary. Around three o'clock, while ascending the river again, we saw a canoe made from the trunk of a tree that had been hallowed out by fire. We would have hauled it aboard only it was all broken up. The river courses northwest and northwest-quarter west. Between five and six we entered under a point and landed ashore, we built shelters and set the caldron going as usual. Our travel was good for six leagues, and we may be about twenty-four leagues up the river now.

On Wednesday, the 6th, we distributed two corbillons (small baskets) of bread, and some pap, amongst twenty-six men; we then fired a shot from one of the pierriers. Around seven o'clock we embarked again, in a fog so thick that we could hardly see in front of us. The river continues to course in directions northwest and northwest-quarter west, at a distance about twenty-seven leagues from its mouth, then it

follows a serpentine course from northwest to east, and then east-northeast to northwest. At sunset we landed again and erected some shelters for the night. We had one of our men climb a tree to see if he could discover anything. He could not. Two of our men who had been exploring around in the bark-canoe reported having seen three crocodile, one being of a prodigious size. Toward seven in the evening, we killed a buffalo; we are now thirty leagues from the mouth of the river.

On Saturday, the seventh, toward seven in the morning, we returned aboard after having planted a cross and carved our markings on trees, weather flat calm. Around nine o'clock, while ranging along shore, we saw three buffaloes relaxed near the water. We landed five of our men to follow their trails, this they could not do as they soon lost sight of them among the woods and the reeds. A while later, while rounding a point, we sighted a canoe with two savages about to land ashore; as soon as they saw us they fled; within rifle range, in some woods farther up, we saw five more who did likewise with the exception of one who waited for us at the river's edge. We spoke to him through sign language. Monsieur d'Iberville gave him a knife, some glass-beads and other knick-knacks; he gave us some smoked buffalo and bear meats in exchange. Monsieur d'Iberville had all of our men embark back on the biscayennes, for fear of intimidating them, and made the lone savage understand that he wanted him to call his companions over, which he did, singing out their chant of peace. A while later they all came toward us doing likewise, their arms upraised towards the sun and rubbing their bellies over, both being tokens of their admiration and of their joy; when they got very near us they rubbed their hands over our bellies and wrapped their arms around us, both being signs of great friendship on their part. Monsieur d'Iberville asked them by means of sign language, if the savages we had seen at the Great Pass, opposite shore from our ships, had arrived. They made us understand that they had, and that they had gone up a small arm of water branching out from the river

and discharging into the sea, around the same spot where we had first seen them. He asked them if their village was very far away, they made us understand that it was five days' distant, motioning to us to indicate the lapse of time between sunrise and sunset, which caused us great consternation as we were beginning to tire and were lacking provisions. Monsieur d'Iberville gave them some glass beads, some knives and some small mirrors; they gave him in exchange some of the smoked buffalo and bear meats they had with them in their canoes. Our men themselves, trafficked for some more, trading other knick-knacks. A fine old man spread out his meat lot by lot, side by side of each other, like they do in Europe, and sat alongside waiting. Two of our men made for him, each giving him a knife and taking away all the meat. There must have been a hundred pounds of it, but the three of them all seemed very well satisfied. Monsieur d'Iberville asked them if they wanted to go up with us to their village. They made us understand that they were going on a hunt and therefore, they could not go up with us. He promised one of their numbers a hatchet if he would come with us, a deal which he accepted willingly as they treasure these very much. We asked them if they had heard our two cannon-shots. After having fired one once before their very eyes, we saw them give way to the greatest wonderment, as they had never heard anything like it. After remaining in their midst for nearly two hours we re-embarked in our chaloupes taking with us one of their number. We gave the fellow a shirt before all the rest, but this did not seem to make the others jealous, they were all so indifferent. From the time we retired, the river's course has been northwest to west-southwest. At one o'clock this afternoon we put ashore to have our dinner. After that the river's course became south southwest and south for the distance of half a league or so; she then bent back northwest to west. Around six in the evening we again put ashore; this time for the night; our men mounting a watch as usual. Our day's travel amounted to five leagues, putting us twenty-five leagues from the river's mouth.

On Sunday the 8th, after Mass, we embarked around seven o'clock. The river's course is now from southwest to northwest. We found the currents more uneven than ordinarily. We had to recross the river three or four times to find the turns in the points. It has been very hot all day. Toward five in the evening there came up a storm that forced us to land and erect shelters because of the rain. Our men killed a crocodile, which we skinned, we then threw pieces of the meat into our cooking-pot to eat it for supper. They also killed a rattlesnake more than six feet long, whose bite is much to be feared, it being deadly. It was windy all night, a strong north wind was blowing and it became very cold; our day's journey took us four leagues farther, or thirty nine leagues from the river's mouth.

On Monday the 9th, toward seven in the morning, after having made and planted crosses as usual, we embarked again. At noonday we put ashore for dinner, this we do every day unless the winds prevent. We saw, at that time, a smoke rising on our starboard side of the river, while we were going up its course, which led us to believe that the village of the savages was not far; but here we were deceiving ourselves as it proved to be more than twenty leagues away, so we were to find out later. The currents continued to be as swift as on the preceding day, this compelled us to cross the river three times to get around the points, the river following a serpentine course from north to south by west. At sunset we settled ashore. We had travelled five leagues, and were forty-four leagues from the river's mouth.

On Tuesday, the 10th, toward seven in the morning we embarked again. The river's course is now from northwest-southwest; then she curves to west-northwest. Around ten o'clock we saw more smoke to our starboard, which at first we took to be the same we had sighted the day before; but we soon realized that it was not. Around noon we came ashore to have dinner, there being no winds of any kind.

As one gradually ascends the course of the river the trees become larger and have better foliage, the lands are in a higher



Pierre LeMoyne d'Iberville
1661-1706

Le Guillermier



Jean-Baptiste LeMoyne de Bienville
1680-1767

Le Guillermier



1699 Biloxi Indian Chief, from an original Sereblograph by Artist-Sculptor Harry D. Reeks. This portrait has been authenticated by the Biloxi Bay Colony Historical Committee, Glenn Swetman, Chairman. Historical and Archeology research provided by Dr. A. R. Galle and James Stevens, historians; and Princess Neioma Whitecloud, Chairman of American Indian Research.

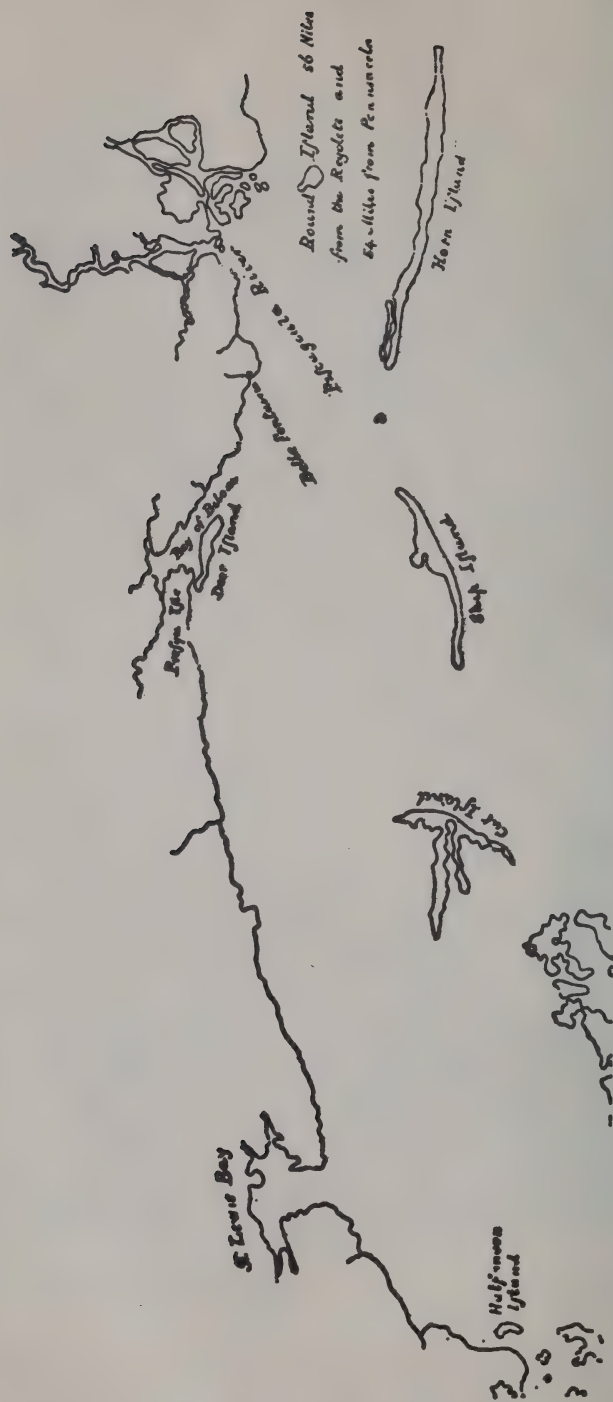
(No reprints, copies, reproductions of this picture, or use of any kind will be permitted without written permission from Artist-Sculptor Harry D. Reeks.)



Courtesy of Dale Greenwell

"Twelve Flags - Triumphs and Tragedies"

Drawing of Fort Maurepas by Dale Greenwell



Courtesy of Dale Greenwell

"Twelve Flags - Triumphs and Tragedies"

Map of Biloxi and Offshore Islands



Courtesy of Jay Higginbotham
"Fort Maurepas"

Map of Fort Maurepas and Old Biloxi

level than farther below, reaching to a height of five feet at times, when the river overreached her banks there are inundated under a foot of water, as can be seen by marks left on the trees. Toward five in the evening, we landed and put up our shelters for the night. We had travelled six leagues during the day, and were fifty leagues from the river's mouth.

On Wednesday, the 11th, it rained continually, in the morning, and this kept us ashore. In the afternoon the rain having stopped several of our men went on a hunt; amongst them were two Breton sailors who went deep into the woods, each being equipped with a rifle; they went so deep into them that they lost their way, the woods being thick and reeds very close together. Around seven in the evening, not seeing them return, we fired our muskets several times, at intervals, in the direction they had taken. The rain started again in the evening and it kept pouring all night.

On Thursday, the 12th, around five in the morning, Monsieur d'Iberville had a shot fired from one of the pierriers, and sent a detachment of four men into the woods to fire several rifle-shots after getting deep into the woods to try to pick up their tracks, which they did. After having penetrated their depth for about a league, they came back reporting that they had heard a shot, far into the distance, but that they had been unable to pick up any tracks, because of the rain that had fallen during the night. Towards ten in the morning he (Monsieur d'Iberville) gathered together another detachment of eight men this time, each carrying a compass, and had them start towards the several points of it. He had them take some bread along, in case they found the missing men and forbade them to come back until he had had a shot fired from one of the pierriers. He also sent a chaloupe for two league's distance along the river's shore to see if the missing men could be found there. Between four and five o'clock he had a shot fired by a pierrier as a signal to the men to return. The weather was overcast all day.

On Friday, the 13th, around seven in the morning, we embarked again. The river has many turns; toward five o'clock

in the evening we came up to two canoes loaded with millet. We pulled alongside; Monsieur d'Iberville gave the savages some glass beads, some knives and other things, in exchange for their millet, they seemed well satisfied. One was from the Natchez nation and the other from the Bayagoulas, they were returning to their village that same afternoon. We assembled together an iron grinding-mill, that we had taken with us to grind the Indian wheat. Having eaten all of the barrel of flour, with which we had made some pap, and having very little bread left, we set about to prepare some sagamite, which consists of a mixture of Indian wheat, ground or merely crushed, boiled in water with a bit of melted lard fat added for seasoning, we had no other means of subsistence, outside of our drinking water, the eau-de-vie (brandy) being all gone. I have omitted to mention that, around three o'clock, we found a great arm of water coursing toward the southwest, along which inhabit several of the savage nations and which may be situated some fifty leagues up the river. We made six leagues today, having found the currents not as strong as heretofore, because of the presence of this arm of water which cuts down their force very much.

On Saturday, the 14th, toward half past six o'clock we embarked to try to reach the village, which we knew could not be very far away from what the savages we had seen Friday evening had told us. We rowed with all our might so as to get there all the sooner. The river wound around making several turns, which we rounded trying to find our way about. Towards two o'clock in the afternoon we sighted a canoe in which were four savages, to wit, two men and two children, together with a man aged from twenty-five to thirty, and an old fellow whose scalp they had lifted, he being a prisoner of war. The head man had a bear skin wrapped around his body, his face was all smeered over with mud, he believing that he improved his looks and he held in his hand a calumet about three feet long enriched with bird feathers of various colors. He was a deputy-chief from the Magoulaches; we engaged together and without stopping, in the ceremonies of the calu-

met, which, as will be seen later, are of considerable length. As we were nearing the village, the ambassador and his associates intoned several chants of peace, accompanying them with much howling. The savages assembled together on an eminence of ground alongside the shore that rose for about six feet from the level land and that they had cleared of all cane growth to receive us. Around four o'clock we arrived at this pleasurable spot and found all the canes cut down; and the latter are more than twenty-five feet high, straight as rods, an inch and a half thick and so bushy all around that it is difficult to walk amongst them. The Chief had more than sixty savages with him, amongst whom were several women, the presence of the latter was a great mark of friendship towards us. Monsieur d'Iberville was greeted by the savages in their usual way; they began by raising their hands towards the sun, as if in admiration, then they softly rubbed their hands on their bellies, the latter gesture being considered a very great mark of affection amongst them. They followed the same ritual towards Monsieur de Sauvolle, Monsieur de Bienville, Father Anasthasius, and the rest of our men. We in turn greeted them likewise. They had us sit down on some bedded cones, over which they had spread a bear skin; they presented us the calumet of peace, which we accepted. Their chief sat in the midst of us and the other savages did likewise with our men, each and every one of them, offering them all a smoke. They later brought us a quantity of Indian wheat prepared in various ways - some in form of loafs, both round and of some length, which they had baked under beds, after the women had ground the millet, some had been cooked in bear fat, some had been prepared like sagamite, with the insertion of numbers of soft beans in the dough and some were of just plain baked flour. We ate a little from each kind and gave the remainder to the men to put aboard our chaloupes. Monsieur d'Iberville gave them some eau-de-vie, diluted with water, they each took only a small draught, finding it too strong, never having drank that sort of liquor. After that he gave them some glass-beads, some needles, some mirrors, some

knives and other gimcracks; a bit of each to all of them. All these ceremonies, as well as this magnificent feast, lasted until half past six in the evening; then the Chief had all the youngsters sing for us. Each held in hand a small gourd, in which had been inserted some small seeds, and they shook them in good accompaniment with their voices. At the end of each song, none of these being very long and consisting of almost the same words repeated over and over again, although the tunes were different, they engaged in the most terrific howlings, these echoing in the woods for more than a league around. These sweet harmonies lasted for more than two hours, the Chief absenting himself at intervals; finally he was ready to bid us adieu in his own fashion. We made him understand that we would visit them all, the next day at their village; they lighted some torches, made up of bundles of dry cane stock, and struck them in the ground in the middle of the assemblage, giving a good light all around. Then four of them stood up, and began dancing, singing and howling in turns, raising their outstretched arms, and all the time fiercely pounding the ground with their feet, this lasted an hour.

Most of them left a short time after that, only four or five staying with us. Monsieur d'Iberville asked them if the fork in the river was still very far away; they gave us to understand that there was none. We believed that they were telling us this so as to have us settle down amongst them. We knew that what they told us was impossible, as we had come too far up the river and had seen it follow too serpentine a course for it to be otherwise, so much so that in a six league headway we travelled almost over every point in the compass. We traced the river's course for them, with pencil and paper which they seemed to understand very well. Then we handed them the pencil asking them to mark the position of the fork, or at least where they thought it was, showing them the while the position of our ships, they calling the latter *Pinanis*, which in their language means canoes; they kept on arguing with us to the contrary, and asserted that there was no fork.

Finally, tired of our insistence, they gave us to understand that there was one toward which they had once ascended, but that there was no depth of water there, and that they had had to portage their canoes several times. Then, toward eleven o'clock, they built a fire close to our tents, because of the cold and of our having practically nothing to use for cover, and we all retired until morning. I had forgotten to mention that the calumet Monsieur d'Iberville gave to the Chief of the Bayagoulas, on the mainland three leagues distant from our ship, is from three to four feet long, made of steel and, at the end where the tobacco is meant to be stuffed in, is decorated with both a white pavilion and the engraved arms of the King. They placed tobacco in it and lighting it, presented it to Monsieur d'Iberville to smoke, then to Monsieur de Sauvolle, then to Monsieur de Bienville and lastly to Father Anasthasius, the latter only pretending to smoke. They then stuck two sticks, in the shape of forks, of a thickness around like one of our fingers and some three feet high, in the ground and laid it on them. They also fabricated a bag from animal skins to keep it in; all together they showed great regard for this calumet.

I am now going to describe their manners, their morals, their articles of food and their costumes. Among others I will start with the Chief of the Mogoulachas, who was garbed in a great blue Canadian capot that also covered his arms, and wore a cravat made of some ugly red stuff formerly used as a flap on a pair of breeches, the whole having been given to him by Monsieur de Tonty, who had once come down the river in search of Monsieur de La Salle. He showed a pride beyond belief, never even smiling, and always looking fixedly at people. As for the others they wore only cloths in some drab looking deer or bear skins, that reached from the shoulders to the knees, according to the size of the skins. Most of them were nude down to their genital parts, with only a small patch hanging over their rod, I have not been able to figure out why. As for the women, they cover themselves with large bear skins, wearing besides a sort of flap from the waist

to the knees, leaving breast, stomach, and throat uncovered. Both sexes have their hair cut short, even pulled out in front, the same applies to the men's beard; they wear only a small handful of hair on the top of their heads, where they fasten bird feathers of various colors. They place more of these over their buttocks, in a sort of horse-tail effect, these hang behind them together with some small bells and some wretched bits of copper shaped like the foot of candlesticks only more slender, so that when they dance they make a noise that causes one to think that a messenger is just coming into town. They also wear around their arms quantities of manilles; besides that their faces are all smudged over, they paint all around their eyebrows with vermilion, blacken one half of their cheeks, and hole out the end of their nose hanging from it pieces of coral as thick as a finger, they do likewise with their ears, shoving through them pieces of wood the size of a small finger. As for food they eat only bread made from Indian wheat and very little meat getting the latter only when they go hunting buffaloes and bears, sometimes at such distances that they have to travel some twenty leagues from their villages down the river. The chiefs have certain designated territories reserved for their own hunts, and when there is any trespassing in these lands a war starts. Toward evening we fired a shot from the pierrier, it struck them all dumb with admiration. Their village may be sixty leagues distant from the river's mouth. They are always saying: "Affero", to signify their astonishment.

On Sunday the 15th, around four o'clock, three savages of some position amongst them came down from the village, singing and yowling a chant, with their calumet, they presented the latter first to Monsieur d'Iberville, to puff from it then to the other gentlemen, and lastly to everybody else present. We gave each a draught of eau-de-vie. Around six we held services of the Mass. Having had breakfast afterward, we journeyed to the village to visit the chief and take him presents which we took with us, such as a scarlet jerkin trimmed with braid of imitation gold, some red stockings, two shirts, some

hatchets, some knives, some glass-beads and some mirrors. Having reached the village, we were asked to sit ourselves on some matting. After having had a smoke, they brought us some buffalo meat, some smoked bear meat, and some bread, of which we ate a little; then we went to look around the village, and to visit the temple, where they maintain a perpetual fire; it contained some figures of beasts, some tokens of former sacrifices and two enemy scalps, hanging as sorts of trophies.

We returned to our shelters around eleven o'clock. Close to twelve o'clock they came to our tents, led by their chief, the latter wearing the costume that Monsieur d'Iberville had given him. A while later the savages arrived all together, along the river's shore, they brought with them some Indian wheat in various forms, some on the cob and some made into bread, which pleased us all very much as we had but little food and did not know how long our journey would last. All our men went to their village, where they traded knives and other trifles for bear and deer skins. I saw in this village, which resembles a large parade ground, two large poles some forty feet high, standing before their temple, and on which two scalps were fastened. One of their chiefs tends to the fire in the temple. The population of the village is made up of four to five hundred people of both sexes, both grown ups and children, their dwellings consists of some large huts, of dome-like shapes, several people inhabit each, they sleep on mattings supported by posts some three feet from the ground, they build fires under these to keep themselves warm during the nights, the latter being quite cold and they having only a few skins for coverings. Their fields where they raise the millet, are near their villages and they make use of buffalo bones to hoe them with; they spend most of their time, when at home, playing with some large sticks which they throw after small, almost round, bullet-like stones. When some of their people die, they take the bodies to a place some fifty steps from the village and set them in coffin-like structures made of four poles set about four feet from the ground and

covered with matting top and bottom. They also take food around to them to eat on their journey.

The village is made up of the men of two nations, those of the Mogoulachas and those of the Bayagoulas, they all speak the same language and have two chiefs over them, the one from the Mogoulachos seems to be the head one. Their village is only a quarter league away from the river. Toward evening we built a large cross on which we carved the arms of France.

On Monday the 16th, between five and six o'clock, we planted our cross. All the savages in the village, together with their chief, came down to see us aboard and eight of them came along with us in one of their canoes. The Chief of the Bayagoulas embarked with Monsieur d'Iberville, to take us all to the village of the Houmas. The river winds around a great deal and has a strong current, the latter becomes swifter when the wind blows in its same direction. Having left around nine o'clock, we had journeyed for about five leagues by half past five in the afternoon. We landed and put up our shelters about a league above an arm, which they had told us at the village was the fork. It is nothing but a lake, through which we could travel to within four or five leagues of our ships, using their small canoes and making several portages. We told the chief of the savages about the two men who had wandered into the woods and got lost while hunting. We made them all understand that we wished them to supply them with food and that we would recompense them for it on our way back to which they readily agreed.

On Tuesday the 17th, around seven in the morning, we embarked again, the river winds around the same turn as on the day preceding, but the current is not so swift. Three leagues from the place where we had spent the night we left behind our two canoes of bark, also the one the savages had with them, together with some men to go hunting, because we had but little meat left, and we were saving that for when we were to put to sea after our having rejoined our ships.

Around three o'clock in the afternoon we put ashore near a small river that looked like a lake and in which the savages gave us to understand that there was plenty of fish; we found several huts covered over with bindings of leather thongs. They have even erected a pole, some thirty feet in height, from which hang all sorts of fish bones. We threw our nets into the waters of the lake and did not draw them in again until the morrow. Some of our men went hunting. They saw some buffaloes and some deer. These soon disappearing into the cane growths. Two of the men that we had left behind to go hunting two leagues down the river, just came overland to our shelters. They reported having seen a crocodile of prodigious size. We made five leagues today, being well favored by the winds.

On Wednesday, the 18th, our two canoes and those of the savages came to join us. We started away immediately, after having pulled up our nets and found that we had only caught a brill. As for the men we had left two leagues farther down, they found a bear that the savages showed them hiding in the hollow of a tree. One of the savages climbed up the tree, dropped a fire-brand in the hollow, and came down again; feeling the heat from the fire the bear started to climb the tree. Monsieur de Bienville fired several rifle-shots at it and killed it. Some savages then went to take it away, saying that it was theirs, as they had pointed it out to him. He willingly let them have it. The river bends back and forth from west to northwest, then again from west to north. Around three o'clock the savages pointed out to us a small river that had practically no current and through which, they said, we could shorten our route by a league and a half. Monsieur d'Iberville boarded a small canoe of bark, and went off to see if we could go through. There seemingly, being only a few trees to block our passage, he put all the Canadians ashore, had them hack at the trees with axes, and had the rest of the men haul the chaloupes forward with ropes. We smoothed out a path, the best we could, leveling the soil, then we rigged up a tackle so that we might haul on our chaloupes better from

the other side; there seemed to be thirty feet of dry ground for every sixty feet of water, the latter running down from a distance of six miles, as we were to see in our descending the river's course. In the meanwhile we sent our canoes of bark together with the caldrons to prepare some sagamite on the other side of the river. Toward nine o'clock we crossed the river, after taking aboard the possessions we had on shore. Thirteen leagues from the village of the Mogoulachas we saw a rather high bit of land, something that we had not eyed since our entering the river. A short while later, we sighted an island stretching out for a quarter league in line northwest-southeast. The river runs from the small canal we had found farther south. Our progress today was of some five leagues.

On Thursday, the 19th, toward eight in the morning, we again went aboard. The river makes several turns. Around noon, we set foot ashore to have our dinner, which consisted only of some Indian wheat bread, lead-heavy and sour to the taste, and of a small piece of lard fat. Between one and two in the afternoon, we again stepped aboard; we found the river wider than ordinarily. The men from the canoes having set foot ashore, to try to find some game, discovered a deer lately killed, it apparently had been strangled by some lynxes. Mr. d'Iberville had it distributed amongst the two chaloupes and we ate some of it, although its belly was already beginning to smell. The savages also smoked some meat from the bear that Monsieur de Bienville had killed on the preceding Tuesday, they gave us some and it made a fine meal for men. Toward six o'clock in the evening we put up our shelters, some three leagues from the country of the Houmas. We fired and shot from one of the pierriers to signal to them of our coming. We accounted for six leagues that day.

On Friday, the 20th, after having left our markings around, as we are in the habit of doing wherever we spend the night, we set foot aboard our boats in the very early morning. The river winds around from east-northeast to west by north. The fog was so thick that we could not see an island about a league down the river from the country of the Houmas. Around ten

o'clock we reached the river shore where the Houmas were awaiting us. We found the three headmen of their nation, who intoned a chant, holding a calumet in hand; they presented it first to our gentlemen to smoke, then to the men. We left at about eleven o'clock with the savages for the villages; our party comprising Messieurs d'Iberville, Sauvolle, Bienville, Father Anasthasius, and four Canadians. The way was difficult to negotiate; for the first league the cane growth was very thick, then we had to walk across water-covered ground for another half league, then across mountains of good heights and difficult of descent, being the while forced to step fast, so as not to lose sight of the savages, who let no obstacles bother them, being very good walkers. Having reached a mountain within sight of the village we sat down to rest; we were all covered with perspiration, due to the heat and to the speed at which we had been walking. They gave us some smokes, and the one who had told us to stop ran ahead towards the village; he came back a while later, signally that it was alright for us to go ahead. We at once resumed our march. Having reached the first huts, and finding that it was raining, we sought shelter for a while. The rain having moderated, we entered the village and reaching the main plaza, we saw the three chiefs, who came forward towards its center, each carrying a cross in hand. They led us forward to the temple, because of the rain, and, after having asked us to sit down on some matting, they invited us to smoke; they then had some Indian wheat and some pumpkins brought over and invited us to eat, making us all the while, many protestations of friendship. Monsieur d'Iberville gave them some hatchets, some glass-beads, two shirts, a blanket, some knives, mirrors, awls and small bells, telling them that he would give them other things when they came over to his boat. Which they understood very well. They rose up to thank him, shouting three times Hou! Hou! Hou!, arms outstretched, a ceremonial they never dispense with when they give things to each other. The chief distributed the presents thanking us in the name of them all. The rain having stopped, matting was

spread out on the ground nearest to the chief's hut, where they had us smoke from time to time, and where they brought us things to eat. They neglected nothing to give us entertainment. They danced several dances, castanets in hand, the women and the girls mixing with all the youths, the whole was arranged and executed according to customs and though they were savages it was all well done.

The evening shadows falling, they went into the chief's cabin where they planted a lighted fagot of some dry cane stock, and began to dance, keeping this up until midnight, and sharing smokes with us all the time, the chief keeping always to our sides. I had forgotten to state that on my having started to leave, at half past four, to go back to our quarters, they all came and fetched me back, holding my arm and insisting that I should stay, saying that I could not get back there before nightfall. Their village, was, in fact situated a good two or three leagues from the river. We asked them about the fork in the river, but we learned nothing and we did not know what to do, always feeling that they were lying.

On Saturday the 21st, in the morning, we again resumed asking them questions as to the location of the fork, without our being able to learn anything. We wanted to leave that morning but they said that we should wait, that their women were pounding some millet for us, and that they would come down with us to the river shore as soon as they had finished their pounding of it. About that time several of our armed men came up, having felt worried about us. We left around ten or eleven. On leaving the chief's cabin we fired five shots. On reaching the outskirts we fired another volley, and on reaching the hill, where we stopped to rest, we fired one more, of all our firearms that time. The savages came down with us, accompanied by all their women; the latter were in tears of our leaving. We reached our shelters by half past one in the afternoon. We told our people all that had transpired during the reception given us on the previous day. The savages offered some of their women to our gentlemen, the latter thanked

them. It was a token of good will and friendship, and it served to emphasize their desire to conclude our alliance with them. Two hours after reaching our cabins, their chief, with a goodly number of savages, came loaded down with Indian wheat, all prepared as before. The chiefs, each carrying in hand a wooden cross, held march around the great cross that we had planted before, with a ceremonial procession, throwing tobacco over and around it, chanting the while in their own ways. After that they handed their calumets to our gentlemen; one of the head ones among them palavered with Monsieur d'Iberville for half an hour, we made it a point to look all attention, although none of us knew what he was talking about. All the youths danced by the fire of flaming torches, while they kept going until midnight, to the accompaniment of the noise made by two bits of wood which they continually kept beating, one against the other. Towards evening Monsieur d'Iberville made them numerous presents, such as a fine scarlet cover embroidered all around, hatchets, knives, glass-beads, mirrors, and sundry other things; they thanked him in their own fashion; such as before described. They had, before that, made him present of a quantity of bear and roebuck skins. Come the night, the head chief divided with the principals among his savages all the presents which had been given him by Monsieur d'Iberville. During the night more than forty savages of both sexes went to their village to get some Indian wheat, together with a quantity of pumpkins, and some fowls, bringing the whole to us on the morrow.

On Sunday the 22nd, the chief of the Bayagoulas, who had come down from his village with us, palavered with Monsieur d'Iberville. The one of the Houmas doing likewise. They then set to chanting around our cross, throwing tobacco in its direction as we would incense. The day before, Monsieur d'Iberville had again asked them if it was far to the fork. They gave us to understand that there was none, as I have already related. We traced the course of the river for them with pencil, indicating the location of each nation along its shores. They still persisted in giving us contrary advice. We

finally led to believe that the chief of the Bayagoulas had forbidden them to tell us anything, for reasons already advanced. We asked them if it was a long way to the Coroas, it being a nation situated above them and mentioned in the narrations of Monsieur de La Salle. They gave us to understand that it was some nine day's journey away. We pretended wanting to go there, because there was a savage with whom we had arranged to come with us, he was a Taensa (Tensas), and belonged to a nation farther up the river. We had made him some presents and he had agreed to tell us where the fork was. Around ten o'clock in the morning, we embarked again. The chief of the Houmas, and several of his principal followers, came arm in arm with Monsieur d'Iberville as far as the chaloupe; the Bayagoulas did likewise with Monsieur de Sauvolle, to whom they presented a calumet; in the morning the Houmas followed the same course with Monsieur de Bienville. Eight of them embarked in our boat, the wife of the chief being among them, they were taking us as far as the *Chelouels*, being friendly with them. Monsieur d'Iberville took the Taensa aboard his own chaloupe, so as to have him show us the fork, which they still insisted did not exist. He gave us to understand that the men of the Houmas had been waiting for us at their village for three days, wanting to give us a feast; they were situated on the other side of the river, barely some two leagues from it, but the river so winds around that the distance is eighteen leagues by water against four across country. He drew the map of the entire river for us, showing the location of all the nations along its shores. Having covered a league we landed, as much to eat our dinner as to interrogate the savages about the fork; they again said that there was not any. After reflecting over this for two hours Monsieur d'Iberville, seeing that it was useless to ascend farther, decided to retrace his course down the river, and to return to our vessels the way we had come. Around three o'clock we embarked aboard our chaloupes, and we later set foot on land at the Houmas. Immediately upon our arriving there, Monsieur de Bienville and two Canadians ascended toward their village the latter being by from two and a half to three leagues dis-

tant from the water, through some very inaccessible country. Regardless of that, they reached it around six o'clock, and found there, the men from the Bayagoulas whom we had left along the shore when starting in on our last trip up the river. We asked them if they would come along with us to their village saying that we had put ashore at the Houmas so as to pick them up, and that we planned to start very early in the morning. They promised to join us at the river's edge very early in the morning and to go down to their village with us. They then left us, and came to our tents around eight o'clock in the evening. They told us that the women had cried at our going, that they felt sorry for us on account of the hardships to be met on such a long journey. Their women cried again on their seeing us, recollecting memories of their poor dead ones. A short while later three women arrived loaded down with pumpkins, Monsieur d'Iberville made them presents of some small bells and they promised to return the following morning. Three Bayagoulas came up singing and indulging in many protestations of friendship for us.

On Monday the 23rd, the chief of the Houmas, together with two of his principal men came carrying a small wooden cross, and started chanting and circling around our own wooden cross, throwing tobacco over it. Men of their village followed suit, some carrying bread of Indian wheat, others the grains of wheat themselves, which they presented to us; the chief later presented the calumet to our gentlemen, as was his custom. Monsieur d'Iberville gave them some hatchets, knives, glass beads, mirrors and other things, as rewards for bringing us their Indian wheat. They thanked him for these in their own way, which consists of their shouting three times, standing up: "Ho! Ho! Ho!" in a low and sustained tone of voice. Their village is made up of some six to seven hundred people, who are all more civilized and honest than the ones we had met heretofore. Monsieur de Tonty went through it on his way down to find Monsieur de La Salle in the year 1686; it was in the month of April. They lay their dead atop stakes, like those of the other village, and when one of their

number is taken ill, two of their own people start singing so as to chase away the evil spirits. The village is situated on an elevation some ten or twelve feet higher than the river shore, yet, toward the end of April or at the beginning of May, it is often inundated under a foot of water, due to the melting of the snows up the sources of the more than three hundred rivers emptying into this one, and the consequent onrush of their combined waters. These waters uproot all trees they find in their path. We witnessed that while navigating the big river, they rush down, a prey of the currents, and a multitude of partially submerged islets, some two leagues east of the river's mouth, these islets becoming in time all covered over with dead trees, which both winds and currents throw upon them. We have even found brackish waters around these islets, due undoubtedly to the strength of the currents and to their great swiftness. At such times all the ground that we have seen, while ascending the river, is under water. Around ten o'clock we re-embarked on our chaloupes. The savage chiefs walked down, arm in arm, with both Monsieur d'Iberville and Monsieur de Sauvolle. We shouted to them: "Long live the King!" three times. They answered us back in their usual manner. We covered ten leagues this trip; we discovered that through the portage we made on the 18th we had shortened our distance by more than six leagues, although we had only walked about a hundred steps on the other side of the river. Around six in the evening, we erected our shelters, and cooked in our cauldron the meat of a roebuck that the men in our bark canoes had killed when they had crossed the river. It rained most of the day, this was the reason the canoe carrying the savages from the Bayagoulas had put ashore around two o'clock in the afternoon; one of our bark canoes had likewise put ashore some twelve leagues farther down, at the place where we had made the portage; the men had found quantities of alligators about, and they also reported that the fire we had made while stopping there had not yet given out.

On Tuesday the twenty-fourth, we embarked around six in the morning. After travelling for some four leagues we came

across the canoe of the savages that had put to shore the day before on account of the rain, and a little farther on we found our own small bark canoe; they had both used the portage and had, therefore, greatly shortened their trip. Towards three in the evening we found a small river that was very much like a lake, it having no current; it was shown to us by the savages, who told us that it was the arm of water down which they had come to the sea to a place opposite our vessels, but that its use for such a purpose necessitated making several portages; we set foot on land at its mouth. Monsieur d'Iberville travelled in it for a short way, to see if there was enough water depth to permit the navigating of our chaloupes. Seeing it cluttered with many dead trees, which had fallen into it, he decided to return the way we had come, and seized upon the course of regaining the sea through the small channel, making use for this of our two bark canoes. He took a savage along and left orders for us to give some presents to the chief of the Bayagoulas. He himself took along presents to give to the Ananis and to the Mouloubis, who are settled down the course of this river, so as to thus make friends with everybody. The small channel itself and the mouth of it run east-south east to west-northwest and are situated about four hours' journey from the village of the Mougoulachas; the star-board point, at its entrance, may be some ten feet high and at the end of it there stands a large tree; the larboard point is much less elevated, it being only some five feet in height, it curves much more inland, probably to a depth of some twenty steps in length from the very tip of the point. Several trees, entrained by the current of the great river, float in its waters. The landfall is in the shape of a bay of a width scarcely some ten steps in extent. When one stands at its entrance the river courses in a direction west-quarter northwest and is within the range of a boucanier of a place where the Indians broil their fish or meats. In its center it runs straight due north until beyond the point on the upstream side, and to west-quarter-southwest on the downstream side, this for more than half a league. We arrived opposite the village of the Mougou-

lachas, at about seven o'clock in the evening, and we fired, upon approaching it, a shot from the pierrier - swivel gun - so as to advise the savages of our coming; although those that we had brought with us went there right afterward. Immediately, several savages came down to our tents, singing; they presented the calumet to Monsieur de Sauvolle. They told us that our two men had reached the village and were staying with them, this gave us a pleasure hard to express, as we had thought them dead in the woods. In the interim, somebody had taken the besace of Father Anasthasius; he kept his breviary in it and also a small journal, in manuscript form of all that had transpired during our journey. He believed it to have been stolen by one of the savages who had come aboard with him at the Houmas, as he had noticed that this savage could not keep his eyes from it while he was saying his breviary. This event left him inconsolable.

On Wednesday the 25th, day of the Annunciation of the Virgin, at about six in the morning, Father Anasthasius went to the village with our gentlemen; the gentlemen going there for provisions, and Father Anasthasius to try to recover his breviary; he complained to the chief that the men who had come to our tents the evening before, calling themselves Scouguas, had stolen his breviary. The chief saw the point immediately. He had one of his men shout three times, calling on all his people to assemble, which they all did in a moment, and he asked them if they had found it; all that time the good Father was shedding tears, to all the more touch their hearts. These poor people were so disconcerted by this accusation that they kept looking silently at each other, unable to say a word, but the breviary could not be found, no matter how hard they kept looking for it. The Father was forced to return, after having visited all their cabins crying. As we wanted to go, we made the chief understand that our gentlemen were waiting for him along the edge of the water. He mentioned it to his men to pound some Indian wheat to make bread for us, this we later reported to Monsieur de Sauvolle, who was then in command due to the

absence of Monsieur d'Iberville. Monsieur d'Iberville at that time was trading a rifle, a full powder-horn, a ramrod and some lead shots, against a young savage of twelve or thirteen to take away as a slave. This poor boy was so brokenhearted at having to leave his own people that he kept crying incessantly, unable to control himself. On the morning that we visited his village, the chief gave Monsieur de Sauvolle a letter from Monsieur de Tonty, written to Monsieur de La Salle from the Quinipassas, in the month of April 1686, in which he was informing the latter that he had descended the river with twenty-five Frenchmen, five savages from the Illinois and five from the Chaonanons, two nations living along the river of the Illinois, where Monsieur de La Salle had had Fort Saint-Louis constructed. They added up to thirty-five men in all. He was telling him that, having heard that he had lost his vessel and that he was waging war against the savages from along the ocean, he had come down to give him assistance and to bring him news from Canada. He went on to tell him that he had made peace with all the nations of the river emptying into the Gulf of Mexico, having landed up above, as we were to see from the journal written by a pilot he had with him. He had not recognized the country, having come down before when it was inundated and finding it dry this time when he reached the sea; this had caused him to travel some eighty leagues out of his way and to the west. The cause of the error made by Monsieur de La Salle was that the inhabitants of Saint Domingue had told him that the tides bore down to the east of the Bahama channel, which was true enough as far as it went, but when one penetrated deeper into the Gulf of Mexico they started to bear to the west, and this was the cause of his error and of his misfortune. Finally not hearing any news from him he had decided to return, simply leaving behind this letter here and also another nailed to a tree at a place eight leagues distant from the sea. He had sent two of his boats out, one to the west, the other to the east, these after covering some twenty-five to thirty leagues, according to their reports, and lacking fresh water, had been

obliged to return. The chief also had a few images, a New Testament, and a rifle, besides the letter that he had preserved so carefully. Monsieur de Sauvolle gave him a few hatchets and some knives in exchange for the letter, and let him keep the New Testament and the images; he likewise gave him the powder for which he had asked. This chief had not wanted to show us this letter when we had travelled up the river, having taken us first for Spaniards, so he now gave us to understand. Toward ten o'clock we stepped aboard our chaloupes to go down river and to return to our ships; we shouted to them: "Long live the King!" three times. We took back with us the two of our men whom their hunters had found along the river shore on their return from the hunt. We had caught sight of these very same hunters ourselves while ascending the river. We had lost these two men, as I have related before, on the seventh of the month. They had spent two days in the woods and among the cane growths, without their being able to find the water again; they had not been able to find their way back because of the river course being so serpentine and the cane growths so thick. They had eaten some snakes, after first cutting off their heads and tails, having had nothing upon which they could subsist with them. At the end of two days they had come up to the shelter we had occupied. They had remained there until the next morning. They then had walked upstream along the river, because they knew that there was a village some distance farther up. we having been told this by savages we had met on their way to the hunt. Around three o'clock, while walking, they had seen two canoes descending the river; they had called to the savages in them, these had come up to them and had given them fifteen ears of corn and some flour, they had, besides, told them to stay on that same spot and they would pick them up in three days. This they had done on Wednesday, the 18th, taking them down to their village with them, and arriving there on Friday the 20th. They had given them some sagamite, some bread made of Indian wheat and a whole braised pumpkin. They had told them, in sign language, to

eat but very little, for fear that it would make them ill. It was then about five o'clock, and at seven o'clock they had again eaten a little of the sagamite which had been given them. More than eighty savages had then come to see the chief of the village where they were staying, making indescribable noises all night and engaging in the most horrible howlings, their purpose had been to assemble themselves around some sort of oven that the chief had in the center of his cabin and in which were the bones of a corpse. The wife of the chief had gone into the oven and pulled out of it some bones and a skull, offering the latter to her husband three times. The chief finally had taken it and placed it between his legs, then he had upset the oven and they had let all the wood that was inside burn itself out; they then had put all the bones and the skull into a basket which four of their men had carried singing to a spot before their mosque. The rest of the savages had followed, taking several walks around before the door, and had then come back. After that the chief had emptied three pots of water into a crock, together with some laurel leaves, and had heated the whole until tepid. He had then taken a cup, filled it and drank. After that he had inserted a finger way back into his mouth, so as to coax himself to vomit the water he had just swallowed. He had kept doing this time and again, until he had drunk a whole potfull of the water. Four old women had then gone through the same ceremonial; they were apparently the same ones who had handled the corpse, and they were drinking this water so as to purify themselves. The next day another chief from the same village had done likewise with the corpse of a small child which he had in his cabin in another oven. I believe only the chiefs are allowed to go through such a ceremony. The chief of these savages had treated our two men with the greatest kindness in the world, and had offered to take them, himself and an old man, in one of their canoes to our ships. He had made them this offer in case we did not return the same way we had come. Toward six o'clock in the evening, we put up to stay for the night some two leagues farther down from the

spot where we had lost our men. We descended twelve leagues down the river on this trip.

On Thursday, the 26th, around four in the morning, we embarked on our chaloupes and had a breakfast of sagamite, which we had had cooking during the night so as to save the Indian wheat bread, which we had taken on at the Houmas for our dinner. Around half past five o'clock we set foot on land, on the starboard side descending the river; we had travelled nineteen leagues this trip.

On Friday, the 27th, toward six o'clock, we embarked again, after having had breakfast as usual. Around five o'clock in the evening we landed and put up shelter for the night; the bread we were now eating was so spoiled and bitter to the taste that it was almost impossible to eat it. We travelled a distance of sixteen leagues today.

On Saturday, the 28th, towards six in the morning we breakfasted; we left around ten o'clock. We came up to two arms of water, almost joining each other, one running south-east and the other southwest, across which Monsieur de Bienville had put athwart to wait for us. He asked Monsieur de Sauvolle if he did not wish to have some soundings made before descending down to the sea. The latter answered that it was not necessary as we could see the sea towards the west, where it was disappearing into the distance. The mouths seemed all obstructed by an infinity of islets, even with whole trees that had drifted along the shores. He, Bienville, said that Monsieur, his brother, had, it was true, given him orders to sound an arm of water, but that it was the one discharging out on the east and situated half a league farther down. We discovered it half an hour later and found it running straight to north-northwest; there seemed to be two passes, so we took the one to the west. As we shipped into it we started sounding and found eight brasses -fathoms- of water. A moment later we touched bottom and our chaloupe immediately turned around athwart, due to the swiftness of the current discharging itself into the sea; the other chaloupe, following,

rammed itself against ours in the river, and ran aground. One of our men jumped in the water, to go and take a tow-rope over to those aboard the other chaloupe and they hauled us free. We stayed there a while, to take our position and to find out the latitude of the river's mouth, it being then only some two and a half leagues distant, the river coursing almost due east and west at 28 degrees 40 minutes. We travelled down half a league farther toward its mouth, and then landed ashore to erect our tents. At half past one in the afternoon our men went to hunt, they killed several ducks, while we were waiting for the coming of the morning to put out. The river's course, upstream, is to west northwest and to straight due northwest. The coastal regions extend for more than twelve or fifteen leagues, and consists of only two tongues of land, one on each side, this causes them to become inundated, they only being elevated a foot above water. The two points at the end of this river run for more than twenty-five leagues out, as we noticed when taking our position, and they are shaped around like bags on both sides, these are full of a multitude of submerged islets, upon which there is no vegetation outside of some stick-like weeds and some wretched grass, they are full of dead trees which the winds and currents have thrown upon them. We found some wild cats, a bit larger than those of Europe and with heads like foxes. To kill them one hits them on the head with sticks. They smell of the marshes and of fish, living entirely off the latter, with the possible exception of some birds they may sometimes catch. I believe that they are amphibians. (These were raccoons and not members of the cat family. S.C.A.)

On Sunday, the 29th, toward five in the morning, we embarked again, scarcely any wind, weather almost calm. As we gradually sailed toward the pass we found the bottom depths varying bit by bit, such as first six, then three fathoms, and then some fourteen, thirteen, twelve and finally eleven feet of water in the middle of the pass, with breakers on both sides with the range of a pistol-shot. We steered straight east to come out, there seemed to be some eight passes. The two on

the north side seemed to be full of breakers, these caused us to take one on the south, where I think that at high tide there might be twelve feet of water, but most of the time there are only two feet in depth, the seas being most of the time heavy at its mouth because of the shallow bottoms and of the swiftness of the current. Sailing out of the pass one finds some fifteen to sixteen feet of water. When we found ourselves well clear, we sailed north along hillocks of sands that at a distance seem fairly well to bar access to the mouth, the latter ranging in directions west to west-northwest. We steered to northwest for two leagues. The winds varied from east to east-northeast, fine weather, we steered close. Around noon we saw an islet at a masts' distance that we could not pass to the wind. About a league from this island, toward a point to the west we saw a quantity of breakers running to the southwest, and when we reached a position within good range of a boucanier from the western tip of this island, being then clear of the breakers and not seeing any land to the wind, although the weather was clear and the eastern tip was laying a good league's distant in the wind, we decided to sail between the breakers and in case we ran aground on bottom to jump overboard into the sea and to push our chaloupes ahead; an emergency which, thanks to the Lord, did not arise, since we went through very easily, although sometimes scratching bottom. We sent a man up the mast to see if he could discern, in the distance, any islet on which we could spend the night. He could only see one island, seemingly very large, and on which there were several lakes. He headed for it, but had much trouble landing. There being no depth of water our chaloupe ran aground some 15 steps from the shore; our men waded through the water; we carried Monsieur de Sauvolle ashore. In coming back they saw many fishes carrying a dart; one of them stung one of our sailors; the sting is so dangerous that it was thought at first that he would have to lose his leg, and he will not be about again for some two months. This is, in its middle section, only 10 leagues from the mouth of the river in direction north east.

On Monday, the 30th, at daybreak, the sailors from the two chaloupes pushed them clear, one after the other, as they had both run aground, the sea having lost more than one half a foot's depth. We had to push them for a distance of more than four times their length. We rowed directly north, there was no wind at all and land was not visible. Around 8 o'clock we saw a large island directly before us. Between 9 and 10 we came athwart of it. This island was four miles distant from the one where we had spent the night and in position north to south. We stretched out for some three leagues toward the north and it had a point jutting out for more than two leagues to north-south-east-quarter east. This forced us to steer to east-northeast so as to sound it, under gentle south winds that began to blow around noon day; later we steered north east to sail between some small submerged islands, two of which we left to the starboard side of us. Around four o'clock, while in position north-northwest, we passed an island that seemed to be some two leagues distant from us. We also passed several islets to larboard, toward the horizon, they were nothing more than some coastal sands resembling the mainland. As we came nearer an island, we saw a point jutting out, we steered north to north-west to round it, then we made to north-quarter northwest toward another island some two leagues distant ahead of us, arriving there around six o'clock in the evening. The winds having greatly freshened we landed on the tip farther out, the land rise there being seven feet out of the water. It was of sand, with an accumulation of shells, which the sea had washed ashore in bad weather; all around this point the island is partly submerged. We erected a shelter, to spend the night there; at once the mosquitoes proceeded to devour us. Toward nine o'clock we sighted a big fire, to northwest-quarter west from where we were, it did not seem to be at a great distance. We could not see if it was burning on an island or on the mainland. We steered over several routes on that day, we made only northwhile progress to the north, sailing some fifteen leagues.

On Tuesday, the 31st, around six o'clock, we hoisted sails in a gentle east to southeast wind, we made northeast to northwest, for fear of over running the position of our ships, and also to reconnoitre the river. After proceeding along for a distance of a league, in the same wind, using both oars and sails, we sighted second islets forming a sort of depressed semi-circle, and between which there seemed to be no pass; they seemed merely a continuation of the coastal regions, being contiguous to the mainland; one, to the northwest, seemed made up of elevated soil and had large trees on it. We recognized it as an island only some two leagues remote from our ships, which gave us great joy, nearing now, as we were, to the end of the misery we had suffered during our terrible undertaking. After having rounded this island, we perceived two of our ships laying to the west of us, this necessitated trimming our sails as the wind was contrary, blowing strong, and the seas very heavy. We rowed toward our ships, reaching them a little after noon-day. We learned that Monsieur d'Iberville had returned to the frigate that morning, together with two bark canoes which had parted company with us more than sixty leagues up the river, using a small arm of water that discharged across from our boats, it being none other than a lake. They had been obliged to make no less than eighty portages because of the many trees they had found cluttering the waters of the small channel, these being piled up one on top of the others. He told us that they had all run very great risks, because of the infinite numbers of alligators they had found infesting the waters of the lakes. He also told us that they had seen more than two hundred wild bulls.

On that same day, Monsieur d'Iberville detached Messieurs de Villantrey and des Jourdis, both ensigns, to go and sound, for a second time, the depths of a river about ten leagues to the east of the island opposite which we were anchored, to see if they could not settle our little colony of people there, having discovered no suitable place alongside of the river as because of the inundations of the latter, most of the lands were continually under water.

On Wednesday, April the first, around ten in the morning, the men from the two feluccas returned aboard the command's ship and reported that there was no suitable depth of water. At noonday the winds were southeast, the fog very thick. The prevailing winds were to the west. All day, at night they veered to the north.

On Thursday, the 2nd, Messieurs d'Iberville and de Sauvolle, with two feluccas, left soon after noon to make some soundings along the coast and in the river, the latter being the one to the west of us, and also the one they had come down through when they had left us at the main river. The same winds prevailed until noon when they veered to the south with the fog.

On Friday, the 3rd, the winds were east-southeast, with a very thick fog, it became calm toward noon, then the winds jumped to north; weather continually foggy. Around ten in the evening, our men returned aboard, with great difficulty, they having wandered around for some time because of the darkness, and thinking several times that they had overrun the island where we were anchored. The light on our mizzen shrouds guided them. The seas were so heavy that they were in danger of being lost, together with their small boats.

On Saturday, the 4th, the winds continued to blow north, fresh and fair weather; this kept our two biscayennes - barcalougas - and the two traversiers - tramp ships - from starting for a river situated some ten leagues to the east of us. They had found no location suitable on the other side of us.

On Sunday, the 5th, toward seven o'clock in the morning, Messieurs d'Iberville, de Surgeres, and several of the major officers, started out in the two small feluccas, taking with them some forty men from both ships, either soldiers, carpenters, or sailors, with axes and other tools, to cut down trees up the river that Monsieur de Villantrey had explored.

On Monday, the 6th, Messieurs de Lesquelet, Lieutenant of *La Badine*, and Bienville, marine guard, returned and reported

that no settlement could be established, as there was not enough water alongside the shores to land our chaloupes; this disconcerted Monsieur d'Iberville and our other gentlemen very much.

On Tuesday, the 7th, Messieurs d'Iberville and Surgeres exploring around for a place, found a small elevation of land, seemingly rather suitable. They sounded the waters of the bay, at the entrance, and found from seven to eight feet of water, this caused them to decide to send in the traversiers to erect a fort, having not yet found a place as suitable, and not being able to spend any more time looking for one because of our shortage of provisions, some of which had already spoiled.

On Wednesday, the 8th, we began to cut down trees with which to build the fort; all our men worked so assiduously that at the end of the month the fort was finished. The chaloupes, during that time, had taken ashore powder, cannons, cannon-balls, some cows, pigs, bulls, sheep, some turkey-hens, etc., so that our vessels were leaving the settlers all that they could spare, reserving for themselves only enough to be able to make the return trip. The officers busied themselves at various tasks all day; one major officer was always left on duty on each of the chaloupes.

On Sunday, the 12th, Palm Sunday, Father Anasthasius left the ship with Monsieur de Beauharnois, an ensign, around four in the morning, to go and hold Mass ashore for the men working there; the winds were so strong, however, that they were forced to put back. Around eleven o'clock, the winds having subsided, they left in the chaloupe. Around two in the afternoon Monsieur de Surgeres returned in his felucca.

On Thursday, the 16th, Holy Thursday, Father Anasthasius, first having said Mass, left with Monsieur de Beauharnois, to go and prepare the men working at the fort for Easter duties. The chaloupe was loaded down with cannons and cannon-balls; we had not proceeded more than a league from our ships when the wind started to blow very strong, then the rain came

down in such abundance that two men had to be kept occupied continually bailing us out. The chaloupe was within two fingers' breadth of becoming filled up with water. We were all wishing ourselves back aboard our ships. We continued on our way, however, so that we managed to reach the fort around two in the afternoon. The rains continued all day Friday and on Saturday until noon, as if they were being poured out of buckets from the skies; so much so that the bay, which was about eight leagues in width became as smooth as a mirror, and remained so for eight consecutive days. It was incredible, however, it was so.

On Easter day, the 19th, Father Anasthasius heard the confessions of all those who presented themselves, then he said Mass, and in the afternoon he held vesper services and delivered a sermon.

On Monday, the 20th, around eleven o'clock in the morning, after having finished hearing confessions, Father Anasthasius left with Monsieur de Lesquelet for the ships to prepare for their Easter duties the men who had not yet been so taken care of. Ashore, we all continued to work hard at the building of the fort, and started to select those of the men who were to stay there. We selected for this purpose the best men from our detachment of soldiers, adding to their numbers the Canadians, some workmen, and the seamen who were to attend to the traversiers. Monsieur de Sauvolle, Company Lieutenant and Naval Ensign, was to be governor, Monsieur de Bienville, Marine Guard, was to be next to him in command, and then came Monsieur Levasseur, a Canadian.

On Friday, the 1st of May and on Saturday, the 2nd, the men who had been working at the building of the fort were returned aboard. Four bastions has been erected; two made up of square sections of wood, two or three feet thick, laid one on top of the other, with embrasures left for the cannons, and with a deep ditch all around. The other bastions had been built of large stakes, so large that four men had been needed to carry one around. Twelve cannons had been mounted around the fort.

On Sunday, the 3rd, Monsieur de Sauvolle came aboard around ten in the morning, to bid us all adieu. He then re-embarked aboard his biscayenne. As he pulled away, we all shouted: "Long live the King!" three times. Right after that Monsieur d'Iberville unfurled his small top-sail, and we got under way at once, although we had to cope with contrary winds. We had let go anchor at nightfall. We went on our way very slowly, being obliged to luff from time to time. Nothing of importance occurred until the 20th, outside of our once sighting an English ship; we later sighted the Dry Tortugas, then Matanzas.

On Friday, the 22nd, we sighted three vessels. We waited for them before sailing ahead, so as to follow them, none of us having yet sailed through the Bahama channel. When nearing us they hoisted an English pavilion, and we a French one. Their admiral hoisted his pennant and sailed toward us. Pulling alongside he asked us where we came from, we answered Saint Domingue. He asked us if the King's Captain, who had died was aboard our ship. He then went alongside the other ship and asked where they came from, and if we were all together. They answered that they came from the Mississippi, or otherwise Malbanchya, seeing that we were giving different answers he took us for freebooters. Evening falling, he fired a cannon-shot to warn his two other vessels to keep close to his own, and to be on their guard all through the night.

On Saturday, the 23rd, Monsieur d'Iberville showing intentions of coming nearer to his ship, he signaled that he would fire a cannon-shot at us if we came any nearer. In fact, he had his firebrands all ready; we would have well accommodated them had they tried to start any fighting. In the end, they recognized us for what we were and made us all sorts of presentations of friendship offering to be of service for anything we needed. From that time on, we followed their course, always having the wind ahead of us and being obliged to tack about during all the watches.

On Monday, the 25th, strong winds ahead; our rudder broke; around noonday, we immediately hoisted the red pavilion; in less than an hour our rudder was repaired. The English admiral had immediately sent his small frigate over to ask us what was the matter. He offered to give us any assistance we needed, holding himself ready to render us any kind of services. We told him that our rudder had broken, but that it was now repaired and that we were thanking him very much. A while later we heard that Monsieur d'Iberville had had a similar mishap. But this was not to be at all. At about half past five that evening, just as we were going down to supper, we heard three cannon-shots, fired by the English admiral to warn us that we were going to founder on some sand banks. As it was we had just enough time to tack about. Seeing the sand banks, we were, in fact, given a great fright and without any gascenade (boasting), considered ourselves only too lucky to have been in the company of the English, having followed their course and having done maneuvers similar to theirs while passing through this channel.

On Tuesday, the 26th, we saw ourselves safely out of it, and we all thanked God for that; all our men were extremely tired, having been on duty during all that time. The winds had now become favorable; we soon left the English behind, our frigates being much faster than theirs. We went east-northeast almost all the time, and had fine weather up to Wednesday, the 10th of June.

On Wednesday, the 10th of June, the winds were from the southwest; from midnight on they increased in intensity, so much so that, in the morning, having clewed - hauled - up our top-sails, we used only our two main-sails. Around noon, the wind increased to such a force that we shortened one main sail and took in our mizzen-reefs, taking the wind astern. Around two o'clock, the wind became so strong that we could no longer steer the vessel, heavy seas shipped aboard, everything became awash between decks, and the sailors were all so tired that they could no longer stand up. We threw our poop straight into the seas, then we hove to the

capstern; we would have thrown the cannons overboard had we not feared to sink the ship. Finally, after some three-quarter hour of our being caught between the two waters, unable to steer her, she began to come and to right herself. We all had thought that our last day had come. We have never been so scared. Two of our men were drowned in the waters between the two decks. *La Badine* did not have the same misfortune, this caused us to become separated, and we did not see her again until we reached Rochefort.

Since that time we have had good winds; we dropped anchor at the roadstead of Chefdebois on Tuesday, the last of June.

On Wednesday, July 1st, we put our sick aboard a bank, so that they might be taken to the hospital at Rochefort. It was time that we reached port; two-thirds of our men having by now been put out of action.

On Thursday, the 2nd, toward ten o'clock, we lifted anchor at the island of Aix, and later entered the port of Rochefort.

FINIS

BIBLIOGRAPHY
re
BILOXI BAY COLONY

Prepared by: M. James Stevens, Vice President, Mississippi Coast Historical & Genealogical Society

"OCEAN SPRINGS - FRENCH BEACHHEAD" by C. E. Schmidt -
1972 - pages 1-11

"THE JOURNAL OF SAUVOLE" by Jay Higginbotham - 1969 - pages
21-70

"FORT MAUREPAS - The Birth of Louisiana" by Jay Higginbotham -
1968 - pages 15-93

pictures of Pierre LeMoyne d'Iberville, Jean Baptiste LeMoyne
de Bienville, Henry de Tonty

Map Drawing - Plan of Fort Maurepas

Map of Vicinity of Ft. Maurepas and Bay of Biloxi

1721 Map of Vicinity of Old Biloxi by LeBlond de la Tour

1954 U. S. Coast & Geodetic Survey Quadrangle of Ocean Springs,
Mississippi

"TWELVE FLAGS TRIUMPHS AND TRAGEDIES" by Dale Greenwell
- 1968 - 148 pages

20 pages of Maps

pictures of Bienville and d'Iberville

"FOUR CENTURIES ON THE PASCAGOULA" by Cyril E. Cain - Vol.
I - 1953

Chronology pages 1-6 and 27-29

Settlement pages 36-46

"MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST" Works Progress Administration - 1939

"A HISTORY OF MISSISSIPPI" edited by R. A. McLemore - 1973

Chapter 5 - "THE FRENCH PERIOD 1699-1763" by Walter G.
Howell - pages 110-133

8 pages pictures and maps

"GULF COAST COUNTRY" by Hodding Carter and Anthony Ragusin
- 1951 - pages 22-48

"FLEUR DE LYS AND CALUMET" by Richebourg G. McWilliams -
1953 - Journal of Andre Penicaut

"TEN FLAGS IN THE WIND" by Charles L. Dufour - 1967

Each of these books contain references to other books.

DEFINITIONS

(Unfamiliar words used throughout the journal)

besace, sort of sack opening in the middle to form two pockets. It is carried over one's shoulder, one pocket hanging in front, the other in the back.

biscayenne, type of boat originating from the neighborhood of the Bay of Biscay, whose prow and stern both terminate in a point.

boucanier, a gun used by buccaneers

brasses, French fathom equal to 5 ft. 3/77 inch.

Breton, from Brittany

bustards, **sarcelles**, geese and teal-ducks

calumet, pipe of peace

chaloupe, launch, long-boat

eau-de-vie, brandy, possibly tofia

Goulet, name of Harbor's entrance

La Manche, the stretch of sea between England and France

league, roughly three miles

manilles, metal ring ornaments worn also amongst the savages of Africa over arms and legs.

pierriers, swivel-guns

Quessant, island off the coast of Brittany

saletins, fishing boat from La Salette - a coastal town

sarrigue, the common Opossum

traversier, a type of fishing boat hailing from the coasts along Le Rochelle

275th ANNIVERSARY, BILOXI BAY COLONY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Daniel D. Guice, General Chairman
E. W. Blossman, Program
Charles Ponder, Financial
Mayor Jerry O'Keefe, Governmental
Ernest Melvin, Governmental
General R. W. Puryear, Historical
Brig. Gen. Martin F. Hass, Gulf Coast Council of Arts
Gwen Gollotte, Special Publicity
Johnny Pott, Golf Tournament
Joe Moran, Artist
Bobby Eleuterius, N. Biloxi Delegate
Dale Greenwell, Executive Committee
Col. Marshall Glazebrook, Special Events
Pat Byrd, Membership
Richard Schmidt, M.D., Executive Committee Chairman
J. C. Goodwin, Financial
Walter Fountain, Coordinator
Major General Bryan M. Shotts, Military
Anthony Ragusin, Historian Emeritus
James Lund, Publicity
Ed Keels, Coast Innkeepers Assn.
Bache Whitlock, Sailing Regatta
Russell Quave, N. Biloxi Delegate
Harry Reeks, Ocean Springs Delegate
Mrs. Janet Green, Food Festival
Mrs. Mary M. Glazebrook, Reception
Franklin M. Kyle, Jr., Pres. Biloxi Chamber of Commerce
Glenn Swetman, Historical

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Glenn Swetman, Chairman	Julia Guice, Secretary
Mrs. Louis Gutierrez	Dale Greenwell
Jimmy Parker	M. James Stevens
Harry Reeks	Dr. R. A. Galle
Dolores Smith	Mary Martha Glazebrook

SUB-COMMITTEE

PUBLICATION OF JOURNAL OF THE FRIGATE "LE MARIN"

Julia Guice
Dale Greenwell
M. James Stevens

REFERENCE ONLY.

HANCOCK COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
HQTRS: CITY-COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
312 HIGHWAY 90
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39520-3595

REFERENCE ONLY

HANCOCK COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
HDQTRS: CITY-COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
312 HIGHWAY 90
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39520-3595

